<u>TITLE</u>

PRODUCTION OF VERY LONG CHAIN POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS IN OILSEED PLANTS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application
5   No. 60/446,941, filed February 12, 2003, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

<u>FIELD OF THE INVENTION</u>

This invention pertains to oilseed plants which have been transformed to produce very long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids and to recombinant constructs
10   and method for producing such fatty acids in a plant.

<u>BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION</u>

Lipids/fatty acids are water-insoluble organic biomolecules that can be extracted from cells and tissues by nonpolar solvents such as chloroform, ether or benzene. Lipids have several important biological functions, serving (1) as
15   structural components of membranes, (2) as storage and transport forms of metabolic fuel, (3) as a protective coating on the surface of many organisms, and (4) as celll-surface components concerned in cell recognition, species specificity and tissue immunity.

The human body is capable of producing most of the fatty acids which it
20   requires to function. Two long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), however, cannot be synthesized efficiently by the human body and, thus, have to be supplied through the diet. Since the human body cannot produce adequate quantities of these polyunsaturated fatty acids, they are called essential fatty acids.

25   PUFAs are important components of the plasma membrane of the cell, where they may be found in such forms as phospholipids and also can be found in triglycerides. PUFAs also serve as precursors to other molecules of importance in human beings and animals, including the prostacyclins, leukotrienes and prostaglandins. There are two main families of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs),
30   specifically, the omega-3 fatty acids and the omega-6 fatty acids.

DHA is a fatty acid of the omega-3 series according to the location of the last double bond in the methyl end. It is synthesized via alternating steps of desaturation and elongation. Production of DHA is important because of its beneficial effect on human health. Currently the major sources of DHA are oils from
35   fish and algae.

EPA and arachidonic acid (AA) are both delta-5 essential fatty acids. EPA belongs to the omega-3 series with five double bonds in the acyl chain, is found in marine food, and is abundant in oily fish from the North Atlantic. AA belongs to the

1

omega-6 series with four double bonds. The lack of a double bond in the omega-3 position confers on AA different properties than those found in EPA. The eicosanoids produced from AA have strong inflammatory and platelet aggregating properties, whereas those derived from EPA have anti-inflammatory and anti-

5   platelet aggregating properties. AA can be obtained from some foods such as meat, fish, and eggs, but the concentration is low.

       Gamma-linolenic acid (GLA) is another essential fatty acid found in mammals. GLA is the metabolic intermediate for very long chain omega-6 fatty acids and for various active molecules. In mammals, formation of long chain PUFAs

10   is rate-limited by delta-6 desaturation. Many physiological and pathological conditions such as aging, stress, diabetes, eczema, and some infections have been shown to depress the delta-6 desaturation step. In addition, GLA is readily catabolized from the oxidation and rapid cell division associated with certain disorders, e.g., cancer or inflammation.

15   Research has shown that omega-3 fatty acids reduce the risk of heart disease as well as having a positive effect on children's development. Results have been disclosed indicating the positive effect of these fatty acids on certain mental illnesses, autoimmune diseases and joint complaints. Thus, there are many health benefits associated with a diet supplemented with these fatty acids.

20   Unfortunately, there are several disadvantages associated with commercial production of PUFAs from natural sources. Natural sources of PUFAs, such as animals and plants, tend to have highly heterogeneous oil compositions. The oils obtained from these sources can require extensive purification to separate out one or more desired PUFAs or to produce an oil which is enriched in one or more

25   PUFAs. Natural sources also are subject to uncontrollable fluctuations in availability. Fish stocks may undergo natural variation or may be depleted by overfishing. Fish oils have unpleasant tastes and odors which may be difficult, if not impossible, to economically separate from the desired product, and can render such products unacceptable as food supplements. Animal oils and, in particular, fish oils,

30   can accumulate envrionmental pollutants. Weather and disease can cause fluctuation in yields from both fish and plant sources.

       An expansive supply of polyunsaturated fatty acids from natural sources and from chemical syntheis are not sufficient for commercial needs. Therefore, it is of interest to find alternative means to allow production of commercial quantities of

35   PUFAs. Biotechnology offers an attractive route for producing LCPUFAs in a safe, cost efficient manner.

       WO 02/26946, published April 4, 2002, describes isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding FAD4, FAD5, FAD5-2 and FAD6 fatty acid desaturase family

members which are expressed in LCPUFA-producing organisms, e.g., *Thraustochytrium, Pythium irregulare, Schizichytrium* and *Crypthecodinium*. It is indicated that constructs containing the desaturase genes can be used in any expression system including plants, animals, and microorganisms for the production

5   of cells capable of producing LCPUFAs.

WO 02/26946, published April 4, 2002, describes FAD4, FAD5, FAD5-2, and FAD6 fatty acid desaturase members and uses thereof to produce long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

WO 98/55625, published December 19, 1998, describes the production of

10   polyunsaturated fatty acids by expression of polyketide-like synthesis genes in plants.

WO 98/46764, published October 22, 1998, describes compositions and methods for preparing long chain fatty acids in plants, plant parts and plant cells which utilize nucleic acid sequences and constructs encoding fatty acid

15   desaturases, including delta-5 desaturases, delta-6 desaturases and delta-12 desaturases.

U.S. Patent No. 6,075,183, issued to Knutzon et al. on June 13, 2000, describes methods and compositions for synthesis of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids in plants.

20   U.S. Patent No. 6,459,018, issued to Knutzon on October 1, 2002, describes a method for producing stearidonic acid in plant seed utilizing a construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding a delta-six desaturase.

Spychalla et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, Vol.94, 1142-1147 (Feb. 1997), describes the isolation and characterization of a cDNA from *C. elegans* that, when

25   expressed in *Arabidopsis*, encodes a fatty acid desaturase which can catalyze the introduction of an omega-3 double bond into a range of 18- and 20-carbon fatty acids.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which

30   the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 1.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a second embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least

35   5.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a third embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 10.0 % of

at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

Additional embodiments of this invention include an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 15.0 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, or 60 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a fourth embodiment this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 10.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds and less than 2.0% arachidonic acid.

Again additional embodiments would include an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 15.0 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, or 60 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds and less than 2.0 % arachidonic acid.

The PUFA can be an omega-3 fatty acid selected from the group consisting of EPA, DPA and DHA.

Also of interest are seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

In a fifth embodiment, this invention includes a recombinant construct for altering the total fatty acid profile of mature seeds of an oilseed plant, said construct comprising at least two promoters wherein each promoter is operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide required for making at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and four or more carbon-carbon double bonds and further wherein the total fatty acid profile comprises at least 2 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and four or more carbon-carbon double bonds and further wherein said polypeptide is an enzyme selected from the group consisting of a Δ4 desaturase, a Δ5 desaturase, a Δ6 desaturase, a Δ15 desaturase, a Δ17 desaturase, a C18 to C22 elongase and a C20 to C24 elongase.

In a further aspect, the promoter is selected from the group consisting of the alpha prime subunit of beta conglycinin promoter, Kunitz trypsin inhibitor 3 promoter, annexin promoter, Gly1 promoter, beta subunit of beta conglycinin promoter, P34/Gly Bd m 30K promoter, albumin promoter, Leg A1 promoter and Leg A2 promoter. Also of interests are oilseed plants comprising in their genome such recombinant constructs, seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

4

In a sixth embodiment, this invention includes a method for making an oilseed plant having an altered fatty acid profile which comprises:

    a) transforming a plant with the recombinant construct of the fifth embodiment;

5   b) growing the transformed plant of step (a); and

    c) selecting those plants wherein the total fatty acid profile comprises at least 1.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a seventh embodiment, this invention includes a method for making an oilseed
10   plant having an altered fatty acid profile which comprises:

    a) transforming a plant with the recombinant construct of the fifth embodiment including any one of the promoters recited therein,

    b) growing the transformed plant of step (a); and

    c) selecting those plants wherein the total fatty acid profile comprises at
15   least 1.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

Also of interest are oilseed plants made by such methods, seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

In an eighth embodiment, this invention includes a food product, beverage,
20   infant formula, or nutritional supplement incorporating any of the oils of the invention.

In a ninth embodiment, this invention includes a food product, pet food or animal feed which has incorporated therein any of the seeds of the invention.

In a tenth embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces
25   mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises polyunsaturated fatty acids having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds wherein the ratio of EPA:DHA is in the range from 1:100 to 860:100. The oilseed plant may further have a total seed fatty acid profile comprising less than 2.0% arachidonic acid. Also of interest are seeds obtained from such plants
30   and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

In an eleventh embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises polyunsaturated fatty acids having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds wherein the ratio of DHA:EPA is in the range from
35   1:100 to 110:100. The oilseed plant may further have a total seed fatty acid profile comprising less than 2.0% arachidonic acid. Also of interest are seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

BIOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

The following plasmids have been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, and bears the following designation, accession number and date of deposit.

5

Plasmid	Accession Number	Date of Deposit
pKR274	ATCC PTA-4988	Jan. 30, 2003
pKR275	ATCC PTA-4989	Jan. 30, 2003
pKR357	ATCC PTA-4990	Jan. 30, 2003
pKR365	ATCC PTA-4991	Jan. 30, 2003
pKKE2	ATCC PTA-4987	Jan. 30, 2003

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE
DRAWINGS AND SEQUENCE LISTINGS

The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed

10   description and the accompanying drawings and Sequence Listing, which form a part of this application.

The sequence descriptions summarize the Sequences Listing attached hereto. The Sequence Listing contains one letter codes for nucleotide sequence characters and the single and three letter codes for amino acids as defined in the

15   IUPAC-IUB standards described in *Nucleic Acids Research 13*:3021-3030 (1985) and in the *Biochemical Journal 219 (No. 2)*:345-373 (1984).

Figure 1 shows possible biosynthetic pathways for PUFAs.

Figure 2 shows possible pathways for production of LC-PUFAs included EPA and DHA compiled from a variety of organisms.

20   Figure 3 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKR274.

Figure 4 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKKE2.

Figure 5 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKR275.

Figure 6 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKR365.

Figure 7 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKR364.

25   Figure 8 is a schematic depiction of plasmid pKR357.

SEQ. ID. NO:1 sets forth oligonucleotide primer GSP1 used to amplify the soybean annexin promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:2 sets forth oligonucleotide primer GSP2 used to amplify the soybean annexin promoter.

30   SEQ. ID. NO:3 sets forth the sequence of the annexin promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:4 sets forth oligonucleotide primer GSP3 used to amplify the soybean BD30 promoter.

6

SEQ. ID. NO:5 sets forth oligonucleotide primer GSP4 used to amplify the soybean BD30 promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:6 sets forth the sequence of the soybean BD30 promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:7 sets forth the sequence of the soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:8 sets forth oligonucleotide primer β-con oligo Bam used to amplify the promoter for soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit.

SEQ. ID. NO:9 sets forth oligonucleotide primer β-con oligo Not used to amplify the promoter for soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit.

SEQ. ID. NO:10 sets forth the sequence of the soybean glycinin Gly-1 promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:11 sets forth oligonucleotide primer glyoligo Bam used to amplify the Gly-1 promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:12 sets forth oligonucleotide primer glyoligo Not used to amplify the Gly-1 promoter.

SEQ. ID. NO:13 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oCGR5-1.

SEQ. ID. NO:14 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oCGR5-2.

SEQ. ID. NO:15 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSAlb-9.

SEQ. ID. NO:16 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSAlb-3.

SEQ. ID. NO:17 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSAlb-4.

SEQ. ID. NO:18 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSAlb-2.

SEQ. ID. NO:19 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegPro5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:20 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegPro3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:21 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegTerm5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:22 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegTerm3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:23 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oKTi5.

SEQ. ID. NO:24 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oKTi6.

SEQ. ID. NO:25 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegA1Pro5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:26 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegA1Pro3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:27 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegA1Term5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:28 sets forth oligonucleotide primer LegA1Term3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:29 sets forth oligonucleotide primer annreamp5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:30 sets forth oligonucleotide primer annreamp3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:31 sets forth oligonucleotide primer BD30 reamp5'.

SEQ. ID. NO:32 sets forth oligonucleotide primer BD30 reamp3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:33 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Mortierella alpina delta-6 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:34 sets forth the protein sequence of the Mortierella alpina delta-6 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:35 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Saprolegnia diclina delta-6 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:36 sets forth the protein sequence of the Saprolegnia diclina delta-6 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:37 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Saprolegnia diclina delta-5 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:38 sets forth the protein sequence of the Saprolegnia diclina delta-5 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:39 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Thraustochytrium aureum elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:40 sets forth the protein sequence of the Thraustochytrium aureum elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:41 sets forth the sequence of the gene for *Saprolegnia diclina* delta-17 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:42 sets forth the protein sequence of the Saprolegnia diclina delta-17 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:43 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Mortierella alpina elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:44 sets forth the protein sequence of the Mortierella alpina elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:45 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Mortierella alpina delta-5 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:46 sets forth the protein sequence of the Mortierella alpina delta-5 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:47 sets forth the sequence of At FAD3, the gene for Arabidopsis thaliana delta-15 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:48 sets forth the protein sequence of the Arabidopsis thaliana delta-15 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:49 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Pavlova sp. elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:50 sets forth the protein sequence of the Pavlova sp. elongase.

SEQ. ID. NO:51 sets forth the sequence of the gene for Schizochytrium aggregatum delta-4 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:52 sets forth the protein sequence of the Schizochytrium aggregatum delta-4 desaturase.

SEQ. ID. NO:53 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RSP19F.

SEQ. ID. NO:54 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RSP19R.

SEQ. ID. NO:55 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RBP2F.

SEQ. ID. NO:56 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RBP2R.

SEQ. ID. NO:57 sets forth oligonucleotide primer CGR4F.

SEQ. ID. NO:58 sets forth oligonucleotide primer CGR4R.

SEQ. ID. NO:59 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSGly-1.

SEQ. ID. NO:60 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSGly-2.

SEQ. ID. NO:61 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 1.

SEQ. ID. NO:62 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1144.

SEQ. ID. NO:63 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 2.

SEQ. ID. NO:64 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1119.

SEQ. ID. NO:65 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1118.

SEQ. ID. NO:66 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 3.

SEQ. ID. NO:67 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1121.

SEQ. ID. NO:68 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1122.

SEQ. ID. NO:69 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 4.

SEQ. ID. NO:70 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1146.

SEQ. ID. NO:71 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1147.

SEQ. ID. NO:72 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 5.

SEQ. ID. NO:73 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1148.

SEQ. ID. NO:74 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 6.

SEQ. ID. NO:75 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1114.

SEQ. ID. NO:76 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 7.

SEQ. ID. NO:77 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1116.

SEQ. ID. NO:78 sets forth consensus desaturase Protein Motif 8.

SEQ. ID. NO:80 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1189.

SEQ. ID. NO:81 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1190.

SEQ. ID. NO:82 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1191.

SEQ. ID. NO:83 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO898.

SEQ. ID. NO:84 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO899.

SEQ. ID. NO:85 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1185.

SEQ. ID. NO:86 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1186.

SEQ. ID. NO:87 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1187.

SEQ. ID. NO:88 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1212.

SEQ. ID. NO:89 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1213.

SEQ. ID. NO:90 sets forth the sequence of the expression cassette that comprises the constitutive soybean S-adenosylmethionine synthetase (SAMS)

9

promoter operably linked to a gene for a form of soybean acetolactate synthase (ALS) that is capable of conferring resistance to sulfonylurea herbicides.

SEQ. ID. NO:91 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSBD30-1.

SEQ. ID. NO:92 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oSBD30-2.

SEQ. ID. NO:93 sets forth oligonucleotide primer T7pro.

SEQ. ID. NO:94 sets forth oligonucleotide primer RO1327.

SEQ. ID. NO:95 sets forth oligonucleotide primer GenRacer3'.

SEQ. ID. NO:96 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oCal-26.

SEQ. ID. NO:97 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oCal-27.

SEQ. ID. NO:98 sets forth oligonucleotide primer oKTi7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

All patents, patent applications, and publications cited are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

In the context of this disclosure, a number of terms shall be utilized.

Fatty acids are described herein by a numbering system in which the number before the colon indicates the number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid, whereas the number after the colon is the number of double bonds that are present. The number following the fatty acid designation indicates the position of the double bond from the carboxyl end of the fatty acid with the "c" affix for the cis-configuration of the double bond, e.g., palmitic acid (16:0), stearic acid (18:0), oleic acid (18:1,9c), petroselinic acid (18:1, 6c), linoleic acid (18:2,9c,12c), γ-linolenic acid (18:3, 6c,9c,12c) and α-linolenic acid (18:3, 9c,12c,15c). Unless otherwise specified 18:1, 18:2 and 18:3 refer to oleic, linoleic and linolenic fatty acids.

"Omega-3 fatty acid" (also referred to as an n-3 fatty acid) includes the essential fatty acid α-linolenic acid (18:3n-3) (ALA) and its long-chain metabolites. In n-3 fatty acids, the first double bond is located at the third carbon from the methyl end of the hydrocarbon chain. For n-6 fatty acids, it is located at the sixth carbon. Eicosapentaneoic acid (EPA), docosapentaenoic acid (DPA), and docosahexanenoic acid (DHA) are examples of omega-3 fatty acids.

"Desaturase" is a polypeptide which can desaturate one or more fatty acids to produce a mono- or poly-unsaturated fatty acid or precursor which is of interest.

A "food analog" is a food-like product manufactured to resemble its food counterpart, whether meat, cheese, milk or the like, and is intended to have the appearance, taste, and texture of its counterpart.

"Aquaculture feed" refers to feed used in aquafarming which concerns the propagation, cultivation or farming of aquatic organisms, animals and/or plants in fresh or marine waters.

10

The terms "polynucleotide", "polynucleotide sequence", "nucleic acid sequence", and "nucleic acid fragment"/"isolated nucleic acid fragment" are used interchangeably herein. These terms encompass nucleotide sequences and the like. A polynucleotide may be a polymer of RNA or DNA that is single- or double-

5   stranded, that optionally contains synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases. A polynucleotide in the form of a polymer of DNA may be comprised of one or more segments of cDNA, genomic DNA, synthetic DNA, or mixtures thereof. Nucleotides (usually found in their 5'-monophosphate form) are referred to by a single letter designation as follows: "A" for adenylate or deoxyadenylate (for RNA or DNA,

10   respectively), "C" for cytidylate or deoxycytidylate, "G" for guanylate or deoxyguanylate, "U" for uridylate, "T" for deoxythymidylate, "R" for purines (A or G), "Y" for pyrimidines (C or T), "K" for G or T, "H" for A or C or T, "I" for inosine, and "N" for any nucleotide.

The terms "subfragment that is functionally equivalent" and "functionally

15   equivalent subfragment" are used interchangeably herein. These terms refer to a portion or subsequence of an isolated nucleic acid fragment in which the ability to alter gene expression or produce a certain phenotype is retained whether or not the fragment or subfragment encodes an active enzyme. For example, the fragment or subfragment can be used in the design of chimeric genes to produce the desired

20   phenotype in a transformed plant. Chimeric genes can be designed for use in suppression by linking a nucleic acid fragment or subfragment thereof, whether or not it encodes an active enzyme, in the sense or antisense orientation relative to a plant promoter sequence.

The terms "homology", "homologous", "substantially similar" and

25   "corresponding substantially" are used interchangeably herein. They refer to nucleic acid fragments wherein changes in one or more nucleotide bases do not affect the ability of the nucleic acid fragment to mediate gene expression or produce a certain phenotype. These terms also refer to modifications of the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention such as deletion or insertion of one or more nucleotides that do

30   not substantially alter the functional properties of the resulting nucleic acid fragment relative to the initial, unmodified fragment. It is therefore understood, as those skilled in the art will appreciate, that the invention encompasses more than the specific exemplary sequences.

Moreover, the skilled artisan recognizes that substantially similar nucleic acid

35   sequences encompassed by this invention are also defined by their ability to hybridize, under moderately stringent conditions (for example, 0.5 X SSC, 0.1% SDS, 60°C) with the sequences exemplified herein, or to any portion of the nucleotide sequences disclosed herein and which are functionally equivalent to any

of the nucleic acid sequences disclosed herein. Stringency conditions can be adjusted to screen for moderately similar fragments, such as homologous sequences from distantly related organisms, to highly similar fragments, such as genes that duplicate functional enzymes from closely related organisms. Post-hybridization washes determine stringency conditions. One set of preferred conditions involves a series of washes starting with 6X SSC, 0.5% SDS at room temperature for 15 min, then repeated with 2X SSC, 0.5% SDS at 45°C for 30 min, and then repeated twice with 0.2X SSC, 0.5% SDS at 50°C for 30 min. A more preferred set of stringent conditions involves the use of higher temperatures in which the washes are identical to those above except for the temperature of the final two 30 min washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.5% SDS was increased to 60°C. Another preferred set of highly stringent conditions involves the use of two final washes in 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

"Gene" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that expresses a specific protein, including regulatory sequences preceding (5' non-coding sequences) and following (3' non-coding sequences) the coding sequence. "Native gene" refers to a gene as found in nature with its own regulatory sequences. "Chimeric gene" refers any gene that is not a native gene, comprising regulatory and coding sequences that are not found together in nature. Accordingly, a chimeric gene may comprise regulatory sequences and coding sequences that are derived from different sources, or regulatory sequences and coding sequences derived from the same source, but arranged in a manner different than that found in nature. A "foreign" gene refers to a gene not normally found in the host organism, but that is introduced into the host organism by gene transfer. Foreign genes can comprise native genes inserted into a non-native organism, or chimeric genes. A "transgene" is a gene that has been introduced into the genome by a transformation procedure. An "allele" is one of several alternative forms of a gene occupying a given locus on a chromosome. When all the alleles present at a given locus on a chromosome are the same that plant is homozygous at that locus. If the alleles present at a given locus on a chromosome differ that plant is heterozygous at that locus.

"Coding sequence" refers to a DNA sequence that codes for a specific amino acid sequence. "Regulatory sequences" refer to nucleotide sequences located upstream (5' non-coding sequences), within, or downstream (3' non-coding sequences) of a coding sequence, and which influence the transcription, RNA processing or stability, or translation of the associated coding sequence. Regulatory sequences may include, but are not limited to, promoters, translation leader sequences, introns, and polyadenylation recognition sequences.

"Promoter" refers to a DNA sequence capable of controlling the expression of a coding sequence or functional RNA. The promoter sequence consists of proximal and more distal upstream elements, the latter elements often referred to as enhancers. Accordingly, an "enhancer" is a DNA sequence that can stimulate

5   promoter activity, and may be an innate element of the promoter or a heterologous element inserted to enhance the level or tissue-specificity of a promoter. Promoters may be derived in their entirety from a native gene, or be composed of different elements derived from different promoters found in nature, or even comprise synthetic DNA segments. It is understood by those skilled in the art that different

10   promoters may direct the expression of a gene in different tissues or cell types, or at different stages of development, or in response to different environmental conditions. It is further recognized that since in most cases the exact boundaries of regulatory sequences have not been completely defined, DNA fragments of some variation may have identical promoter activity. Promoters that cause a gene to be

15   expressed in most cell types at most times are commonly referred to as "constitutive promoters". New promoters of various types useful in plant cells are constantly being discovered; numerous examples may be found in the compilation by Okamuro, J. K., and Goldberg, R. B. (1989) *Biochemistry of Plants* 15:1-82.

The "translation leader sequence" refers to a polynucleotide sequence

20   located between the promoter sequence of a gene and the coding sequence. The translation leader sequence is present in the fully processed mRNA upstream of the translation start sequence. The translation leader sequence may affect processing of the primary transcript to mRNA, mRNA stability or translation efficiency. Examples of translation leader sequences have been described (Turner, R. and

25   Foster, G. D. (1995) *Mol. Biotechnol.* 3:225-236).

The "3' non-coding sequences" or "transcription terminator/termination sequences" refer to DNA sequences located downstream of a coding sequence and include polyadenylation recognition sequences and other sequences encoding regulatory signals capable of affecting mRNA processing or gene expression. The

30   polyadenylation signal is usually characterized by affecting the addition of polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor. The use of different 3' non-coding sequences is exemplified by Ingelbrecht, I. L., et al. (1989) *Plant Cell* 1:671-680.

"RNA transcript" refers to the product resulting from RNA polymerase-

35   catalyzed transcription of a DNA sequence. When the RNA transcript is a perfect complementary copy of the DNA sequence, it is referred to as the primary transcript. An RNA transcript is referred to as the mature RNA when it is an RNA sequence derived from post-transcriptional processing of the primary transcript. "Messenger

13

RNA (mRNA)" refers to the RNA that is without introns and that can be translated into protein by the cell. "cDNA" refers to a DNA that is complementary to and synthesized from a mRNA template using the enzyme reverse transcriptase. The cDNA can be single-stranded or converted into the double-stranded form using the

5 Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I. "Sense" RNA refers to RNA transcript that includes the mRNA and can be translated into protein within a cell or in vitro. "Antisense RNA" refers to an RNA transcript that is complementary to all or part of a target primary transcript or mRNA, and that blocks the expression of a target gene (U.S. Patent No. 5,107,065). The complementarity of an antisense RNA may be

10 with any part of the specific gene transcript, i.e., at the 5' non-coding sequence, 3' non-coding sequence, introns, or the coding sequence. "Functional RNA" refers to antisense RNA, ribozyme RNA, or other RNA that may not be translated but yet has an effect on cellular processes. The terms "complement" and "reverse complement" are used interchangeably herein with respect to mRNA transcripts,

15 and are meant to define the antisense RNA of the message.

The term "operably linked" refers to the association of nucleic acid sequences on a single nucleic acid fragment so that the function of one is regulated by the other. For example, a promoter is operably linked with a coding sequence when it is capable of regulating the expression of that coding sequence (i.e., that the coding

20 sequence is under the transcriptional control of the promoter). Coding sequences can be operably linked to regulatory sequences in a sense or antisense orientation. In another example, the complementary RNA regions of the invention can be operably linked, either directly or indirectly, 5' to the target mRNA, or 3' to the target mRNA, or within the target mRNA, or a first complementary region is 5' and its

25 complement is 3' to the target mRNA.

Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used herein are well known in the art and are described more fully in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F. and Maniatis, T. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: Cold Spring Harbor, 1989. Transformation methods are well

30 known to those skilled in the art and are described below.

"PCR" or "Polymerase Chain Reaction" is a technique for the synthesis of large quantities of specific DNA segments, consists of a series of repetitive cycles (Perkin Elmer Cetus Instruments, Norwalk, CT). Typically, the double stranded DNA is heat denatured, the two primers complementary to the 3' boundaries of the

35 target segment are annealed at low temperature and then extended at an intermediate temperature. One set of these three consecutive steps is referred to as a cycle.

14

The term "recombinant" refers to an artificial combination of two otherwise separated segments of sequence, e.g., by chemical synthesis or by the manipulation of isolated segments of nucleic acids by genetic engineering techniques.

5   The terms "recombinant construct", "expression construct", "chimeric construct", "construct", and "recombinant DNA construct" are used interchangeably herein. A recombinant construct comprises an artificial combination of nucleic acid fragments, e.g., regulatory and coding sequences that are not found together in nature. For example, a chimeric construct may comprise regulatory sequences and

10   coding sequences that are derived from different sources, or regulatory sequences and coding sequences derived from the same source, but arranged in a manner different than that found in nature. Such construct may be used by itself or may be used in conjunction with a vector. If a vector is used then the choice of vector is dependent upon the method that will be used to transform host cells as is well

15   known to those skilled in the art. For example, a plasmid vector can be used. The skilled artisan is well aware of the genetic elements that must be present on the vector in order to successfully transform, select and propagate host cells comprising any of the isolated nucleic acid fragments of the invention. The skilled artisan will also recognize that different independent transformation events will result in different

20   levels and patterns of expression (Jones et al., (1985) *EMBO J.* 4:2411-2418; De Almeida et al., (1989) *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 218:78-86), and thus that multiple events must be screened in order to obtain lines displaying the desired expression level and pattern. Such screening may be accomplished by Southern analysis of DNA, Northern analysis of mRNA expression, immunoblotting analysis of protein

25   expression, or phenotypic analysis, among others.

The term "expression", as used herein, refers to the production of a functional end-product e.g., a mRNA or a protein (precursor or mature).

The term "expression cassette" as used herein, refers to a discrete nucleic acid fragment into which a nucleic acid sequence or fragment can be moved.

30   "Mature" protein refers to a post-translationally processed polypeptide; i.e., one from which any pre- or propeptides present in the primary translation product have been removed. "Precursor" protein refers to the primary product of translation of mRNA; i.e., with pre- and propeptides still present. Pre- and propeptides may be but are not limited to intracellular localization signals.

35   "Stable transformation" refers to the transfer of a nucleic acid fragment into a genome of a host organism, including both nuclear and organellar genomes, resulting in genetically stable inheritance. In contrast, "transient transformation" refers to the transfer of a nucleic acid fragment into the nucleus, or DNA-containing

15

organelle, of a host organism resulting in gene expression without integration or stable inheritance. Host organisms containing the transformed nucleic acid fragments are referred to as "transgenic" organisms.

"Antisense inhibition" refers to the production of antisense RNA transcripts
5   capable of suppressing the expression of the target protein. "Co-suppression" refers to the production of sense RNA transcripts capable of suppressing the expression of identical or substantially similar foreign or endogenous genes (U.S. Patent No. 5,231,020). Co-suppression constructs in plants previously have been designed by focusing on overexpression of a nucleic acid sequence having
10   homology to an endogenous mRNA, in the sense orientation, which results in the reduction of all RNA having homology to the overexpressed sequence (see Vaucheret et al. (1998) *Plant J.* 16:651-659; and Gura (2000) *Nature* 404:804-808). The overall efficiency of this phenomenon is low, and the extent of the RNA reduction is widely variable. Recent work has described the use of "hairpin"
15   structures that incorporate all, or part, of an mRNA encoding sequence in a complementary orientation that results in a potential "stem-loop" structure for the expressed RNA (PCT Publication WO 99/53050 published on October 21, 1999 and more recently, Applicants' assignee's PCT Application having international publication number WO 02/00904 published on January 3, 2002). This increases
20   the frequency of co-suppression in the recovered transgenic plants. Another variation describes the use of plant viral sequences to direct the suppression, or "silencing", of proximal mRNA encoding sequences (PCT Publication WO 98/36083 published on August 20, 1998). Both of these co-suppressing phenomena have not been elucidated mechanistically, although genetic evidence has begun to unravel
25   this complex situation (Elmayan et al. (1998) *Plant Cell* 10:1747-1757).

The polynucleotide sequences used for suppression do not necessarily have to be 100% complementary to the polynucleotide sequences found in the gene to be suppressed. For example, suppression of all the subunits of the soybean seed storage protein ß-conglycinin has been accomplished using a polynucleotide
30   derived from a portion of the gene encoding the α subunit (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,399). ß-conglycinin is a heterogeneous glycoprotein composed of varying combinations of three highly negatively charged subunits identified as α, α' and β. The polynucleotide sequences encoding the α and α' subunits are 85% identical to each other while the polynucleotide sequences encoding the β subunit are 75 to
35   80% identical to the α and α' subunits. Thus, polynucleotides that are at least 75% identical to a region of the polynucleotide that is target for suppression have been shown to be effective in suppressing the desired target. The polynucleotide should

16

be at least 80% identical, preferably at least 90% identical, most preferably at least 95% identical, or the polynucleotide may be 100% identical to the desired target.

The present invention concerns an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 1.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a second embodiment, this invention concerns an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 5.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

In a third embodiment, this invention concerns an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 10.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

Additional embodiments of this invention include an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 15.0 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, or 60 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds. Indeed, one might expect that any integer level of accumulation of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid from about 1 % to about 60 % of the total seed fatty acid profile could be obtained.

In a fourth embodiment, this invention concerns an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 10.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds and less than 2.0% arachidonic acid.

Again additional embodiments would include an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises at least 15.0 %, 20 %, 25 %, 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, or 60 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds and less than 2.0% arachidonic acid. Indeed, one might expect that any integer level of accumulation of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid from about 1 % to about 60 % of the total seed fatty acid profile could be obtained while accumulating less than 2 % arachidonic acid.

Examples of oilseed plants include, but are not limited to, soybean, Brassica species, sunflower, maize, cotton, flax, and safflower.

Examples of polyunsaturated fatty acids having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds include, but are not limited to, omega-

17

3 fatty acids such as EPA, DPA and DHA. Seeds obtained from such plants are also within the scope of this invention as well as oil obtained from such seeds.

In a fifth embodiment this invention concerns a recombinant construct for altering the total fatty acid profile of mature seeds of an oilseed plant, said construct
5   comprising at least two promoters wherein each promoter is operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide required for making at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and four or more carbon-carbon double bonds and further wherein the total fatty acid profile comprises at least 2 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least
10   twenty carbon atoms and four or more carbon-carbon double bonds and further wherein said polypeptide is an enzyme selected from the group consisting of a Δ 4 desaturase, a Δ 5 desaturase, Δ 6 desaturase, a Δ 15 desaturase, a Δ 17 desaturase, a C18 to C22 elongase and a C20 to C24 elongase.

Such desaturases are discussed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,075,183, 5,968,809,
15   6,136,574, 5,972,664, 6,051,754, 6,410,288 and WO 98/46763, WO 98/46764, WO 00/12720, WO 00/40705

The choice of combination of cassettes used depends in part on the PUFA profile and/or desaturase profile of the oilseed plant cells to be transformed and the LC-PUFA which is to be expressed.
20   A number of enzymes are involved in PUFA biosynthesis. Linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 Δ9,12) is produced from oleic acid (18:1 Δ9) by a delta-12 desaturase. GLA (18:3 Δ 6, 9,12) is produced from linoleic acid (18:2 Δ9,12) by a delta-6 desaturase. ARA(20:4 Δ 5, 8, 11, 14) production from dihomo-gamma-linolenic acid (DGLA 20:3 Δ 8, 11, 14) is catalyzed by a delta-5 desaturase. However, animals cannot
25   desaturate beyond the delta-9 position and therefore cannot convert oleic acid (18:1 Δ9) into linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 Δ9,12). Likewise, alpha-linolenic acid (ALA 18:3 Δ 9, 12, 15) cannot be synthesized by mammals. Other eukaryotes, including fungi and plants, have enzymes which desaturate at positions delta-12 and delta-5. The major poly-unsaturated fatty acids of animals therefore are either derived from diet and/or
30   from desaturation and elongation of linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 Δ9,12) or alpha-linolenic acid (ALA 18:3 Δ 9, 12, 15).

The elongation process in plants involves a four-step process initiated by the crucial step of condensation of malonate and a fatty acid with release of a carbon dioxide molecule. The substrates in fatty acid elongation are CoA thioesters. The
35   condensation step is mediated by a 3-ketoacyl synthase, which is generally rate limiting to the overall cycle of four reactions and provides some substrate specificity. The product of one elongation cycle regenerates a fatty acid that has been extended

18

by two carbon atoms (Browse et al., *Trends in Biochemical Sciences* 27(9): 467-473 (September 2002); Napier, *Trends in Plant Sciences* 7(2): 51-54 (February 2002)).

As was noted above, a promoter is a DNA sequence that directs cellular machinery of a plant to produce RNA from the contiguous coding sequence

5 downstream (3') of the promoter. The promoter region influences the rate, developmental stage, and cell type in which the RNA transcript of the gene is made. The RNA transcript is processed to produce messenger RNA (mRNA) which serves as a template for translation of the RNA sequence into the amino acid sequence of the encoded polypeptide. The 5' non-translated leader sequence is a region of the

10 mRNA upstream of the protein coding region that may play a role in initiation and translation of the mRNA. The 3' transcription termination/polyadenylation signal is a non-translated region downstream of the protein coding region that functions in the plant cells to cause termination of the RNA transcript and the addition of polyadenylate nucleotides to the 3' end of the RNA.

15 The origin of the promoter chosen to drive expression of the coding sequence is not important as long as it has sufficient transcriptional activity to accomplish the invention by expressing translatable mRNA for the desired nucleic acid fragments in the desired host tissue at the right time. Either heterologous or non-heterologous (i.e., endogenous) promoters can be used to practice the invention.

20 Suitable promoters which can be used to practice the invention include, but are not limited to, the alpha prime subunit of beta conglycinin promoter, Kunitz trypsin inhibitor 3 promoter, annexin promoter, Gly1 promoter, beta subunit of beta conglycinin promoter, P34/Gly Bd m 30K promoter, albumin promoter, Leg A1 promoter and Leg A2 promoter. The level of activity of the annexin, or P34,

25 promoter is comparable to that of many known strong promoters, such as the CaMV 35S promoter (Atanassova et al., (1998) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 37:275-285; Battraw and Hall, (1990) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 15:527-538; Holtorf et al., (1995) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 29:637-646; Jefferson et al., (1987) *EMBO J.* 6:3901-3907; Wilmink et al., (1995) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 28:949-955), the Arabidopsis oleosin promoters (Plant et al., (1994)

30 *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25:193-205; Li, (1997) Texas A&M University Ph.D. dissertation, pp. 107-128), the Arabidopsis ubiquitin extension protein promoters (Callis et al., 1990), a tomato ubiquitin gene promoter (Rollfinke et al., 1998), a soybean heat shock protein promoter (Schoffl et al., 1989), and a maize H3 histone gene promoter (Atanassova et al., 1998).

35 Expression of chimeric genes in most plant cell makes the annexin, or P34, promoter, which constitutes the subject matter of Applicants' Assignee's copending application having Application No. 60/446,833 and Attorney Docket No. BB-1531 which is filed concurrently herewith, especially useful when seed specific expression

19

of a target heterologous nucleic acid fragment is required. Another useful feature of the annexin promoter is its expression profile in developing seeds. The annexin promoter of the invention is most active in developing seeds at early stages (before 10 days after pollination) and is largely quiescent in later stages. The expression

5   profile of the annexin promoter is different from that of many seed-specific promoters, e.g., seed storage protein promoters, which often provide highest activity in later stages of development (Chen et al., (1989) *Dev. Genet.* 10:112-122; Ellerstrom et al., (1996) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 32:1019-1027; Keddie et al., (1994) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 24:327-340; Plant et al., (1994) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25:193-205; Li, (1997)

10   Texas A&M University Ph.D. dissertation, pp. 107-128). The P34 promoter has a more conventional expression profile but remains distinct from other known seed specific promoters. Thus, the annexin, or P34, promoter will be a very attractive candidate when overexpression, or suppression, of a gene in embryos is desired at an early developing stage. For example, it may be desirable to overexpress a gene

15   regulating early embryo development or a gene involved in the metabolism prior to seed maturation.

The promoter is then operably linked in a sense orientation using conventional means well known to those skilled in the art.

Once the recombinant construct has been made, it may then be introduced

20   into the oilseed plant cell of choice by methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art including, for example, transfection, transformation and electroporation as described above. The transformed plant cell is then cultured and regenerated under suitable conditions permitting expression of the LC-PUFA which is then recovered and purified.

25   The recombinant constructs of the invention may be introduced into one plant cell or, alternatively, each construct may be introduced into separate plant cells.

Expression in a plant cell may be accomplished in a transient or stable fashion as is described above.

The desired LC-PUFAs can be expressed in seed. Also within the scope of

30   this invention are seeds or plant parts obtained from such transformed plants.

Plant parts include differentiated and undifferentiated tissues, including but not limited to, roots, stems, shoots, leaves, pollen, seeds, tumor tissue, and various forms of cells and culture such as single cells, protoplasts, embryos, and callus tissue. The plant tissue may be in plant or in organ, tissue or cell culture.

35   Methods for transforming dicots, primarily by use of Agrobacterium tumefaciens, and obtaining transgenic plants have been published, among others, for cotton (U.S. Patent No. 5,004,863, U.S. Patent No. 5,159,135); soybean (U.S. Patent No. 5,569,834, U.S. Patent No. 5,416,011); Brassica (U.S. Patent

20

No. 5,463,174); peanut (Cheng et al. (1996) *Plant Cell Rep.* 15:653-657, McKently et al. (1995) *Plant Cell Rep.* 14:699-703); papaya (Ling, K. et al. (1991) *Bio/technology* 9:752-758); and pea (Grant et al. (1995) *Plant Cell Rep.* 15:254-258). For a review of other commonly used methods of plant transformation

5 see Newell, C.A. (2000) *Mol. Biotechnol.* 16:53-65. One of these methods of transformation uses Agrobacterium rhizogenes (Tepfler, M. and Casse-Delbart, F. (1987) *Microbiol.* Sci. 4:24-28). Transformation of soybeans using direct delivery of DNA has been published using PEG fusion (PCT publication WO 92/17598), electroporation (Chowrira, G.M. et al. (1995) *Mol. Biotechnol.* 3:17-23; Christou, P.

10 et al. (1987) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 84:3962-3966), microinjection, or particle bombardment (McCabe, D.E. et. al. (1988) *Bio/Technology* 6:923; Christou et al. (1988) *Plant Physiol.* 87:671-674).

There are a variety of methods for the regeneration of plants from plant tissue. The particular method of regeneration will depend on the starting plant tissue

15 and the particular plant species to be regenerated. The regeneration, development and cultivation of plants from single plant protoplast transformants or from various transformed explants is well known in the art (Weissbach and Weissbach, (1988) In.: Methods for Plant Molecular Biology, (Eds.), Academic Press, Inc., San Diego, CA). This regeneration and growth process typically includes the steps of selection

20 of transformed cells, culturing those individualized cells through the usual stages of embryonic development through the rooted plantlet stage. Transgenic embryos and seeds are similarly regenerated. The resulting transgenic rooted shoots are thereafter planted in an appropriate plant growth medium such as soil. Preferably, the regenerated plants are self-pollinated to provide homozygous transgenic plants.

25 Otherwise, pollen obtained from the regenerated plants is crossed to seed-grown plants of agronomically important lines. Conversely, pollen from plants of these important lines is used to pollinate regenerated plants. A transgenic plant of the present invention containing a desired polypeptide is cultivated using methods well known to one skilled in the art.

30 In addition to the above discussed procedures, practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of macromolecules (e.g., DNA molecules, plasmids, etc.), generation of recombinant DNA fragments and recombinant expression constructs and the screening and isolating of clones, (see

35 for example, Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Press; Maliga et al. (1995) Methods in Plant Molecular Biology, Cold Spring Harbor Press; Birren et al. (1998) Genome Analysis: Detecting Genes, 1, Cold Spring Harbor, New York; Birren et al. (1998) Genome Analysis: Analyzing

DNA, 2, Cold Spring Harbor, New York; Plant Molecular Biology: A Laboratory Manual, eds. Clark, Springer, New York (1997)).

In another aspect, this invention concerns a method for making an oilseed plant having an altered fatty acid profile which comprises:

5   a)   transforming a plant with the recombinant construct of the invention;

       b)   growing the transformed plant of step (a); and

       c)   selecting those plants wherein the total fatty acid profile comprises at least 1.0 % of at least one polyunsaturated fatty acid having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

10   Methods of isolating seed oils are well known in the art: (Young et al, Processing of Fats and Oils, in "The Lipid Handbook" (Gunstone et al eds.) Chapter 5 pp 253-257; London, Chapman & Hall, 1994).

The altered seed oils can then be added to nutritional compositions such as a nutritional supplement, food products, infant formula, animal feed, pet food and the

15   like.

Compared to other vegetable oils, the oils of the invention are believed to function similarly to other oils in food applications from a physical standpoint. Partially hydrogenated oils, such as soybean oil, are widely used as ingredients for soft spreads, margarine and shortenings for baking and frying.

20   Examples of food products or food analogs into which altered seed oils or altered seeds of the invention may be incorporated include a meat product such as a processed meat product, a cereal food product, a snack food product, a baked goods product, a fried food product, a health food product, an infant formula, a beverage, a nutritional supplement, a dairy product, a pet food product, animal feed

25   or an aquaculture food product. Food analogs can be made use processes well known to those skilled in the art. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,355,296 B1 and 6,187,367 B1 describe emulsified meat analogs and emulsified meat extenders. U.S. Patent No. 5,206,050 B1 describes soy protein curd useful for cooked food analogs (also can be used as a process to form a curd useful to make food analogs). U.S. Patent

30   No. 4,284,656 to Hwa describes a soy protein curd useful for food analogs. U.S. Patent No. 3,988,485 to Hibbert et al. describes a meat-like protein food formed from spun vegetable protein fibers. U.S. Patent No. 3,950,564 to Puski et al. describes a process of making a soy based meat substitute and U.S. Patent No. 3,925,566 to Reinhart et al. describes a simulated meat product. For example,

35   soy protein that has been processed to impart a structure, chunk or fiber for use as a food ingredient is called "textured soy protein" (TSP). TSPs are frequently made to resemble meat, seafood, or poultry in structure and appearance when hydrated.

22

There can be mentioned meat analogs, cheese analogs, milk analogs and the like.

Meat analogs made from soybeans contain soy protein or tofu and other ingredients mixed together to simulate various kinds of meats. These meat
5   alternatives are sold as frozen, canned or dried foods. Usually, they can be used the same way as the foods they replace. Meat alternatives made from soybeans are excellent sources of protein, iron and B vitamins. Examples of meat analogs include, but are not limited to, ham analogs, sausage analogs, bacon analogs, and the like.

10   Food analogs can be classified as imitiation or substitutes depending on their functional and compositional characteristics. For example, an imitation cheese need only resemble the cheese it is designed to replace. However, a product can generally be called a substitute cheese only if it is nutritionally equivalent to the cheese it is replacing and meets the minimum compositional requirements for that
15   cheese. Thus, substitute cheese will often have higher protein levels than imitation cheeses and be fortified with vitamins and minerals.

Milk analogs or nondairy food products include, but are not limited to, imitation milk, nondairy frozen desserts such as those made from soybeans and/or soy protein products.

20   Meat products encompass a broad variety of products. In the United States "meat" includes "red meats" produced from cattle, hogs and sheep. In addition to the red meats there are poultry items which include chickens, turkeys, geese, guineas, ducks and the fish and shellfish. There is a wide assortment of seasoned and processes meat products: fresh, cured and fried, and cured and cooked.
25   Sausages and hot dogs are examples of processed meat products. Thus, the term "meat products" as used herein includes, but is not limited to, processed meat products.

A cereal food product is a food product derived from the processing of a cereal grain. A cereal grain includes any plant from the grass family that yields an
30   edible grain (seed). The most popular grains are barley, corn, millet, oats, quinoa, rice, rye, sorghum, triticale, wheat and wild rice. Examples of a cereal food product include, but are not limited to, whole grain, crushed grain, grits, flour, bran, germ, breakfast cereals, extruded foods, pastas, and the like.

A baked goods product comprises any of the cereal food products mentioned
35   above and has been baked or processed in a manner comparable to baking, i.e., to dry or harden by subjecting to heat. Examples of a baked good product include, but are not limited to bread, cakes, doughnuts, bread crumbs, baked snacks, mini-biscuits, mini-crackers, mini-cookies, and mini-pretzels. As was mentioned above,

23

oils of the invention can be used as an ingredient.

In general, soybean oil is produced using a series of steps involving the extraction and purification of an edible oil product from the oil bearing seed. Soybean oils and soybean byproducts are produced using the generalized steps

5   shown in the diagram below.

10

15

Process	Impurities Removed/ Byproducts Obtained

Soybean

▼

Oil Extraction ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ Meal

▼

Degumming ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ Lecithin

▼

Alkali or Physical Refining ⎯⎯▶ Gums, Free Fatty Acids, Pigments

▼

Water Washing ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ Soap

▼

Bleaching ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ Color, Soap, Metal

▼

(Hydrogenation)

▼

(Winterization) ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ Stearine

▼

Deodorization ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯▶ FFA, Tocopherols, Sterols, Volatiles

▼

Oil Products
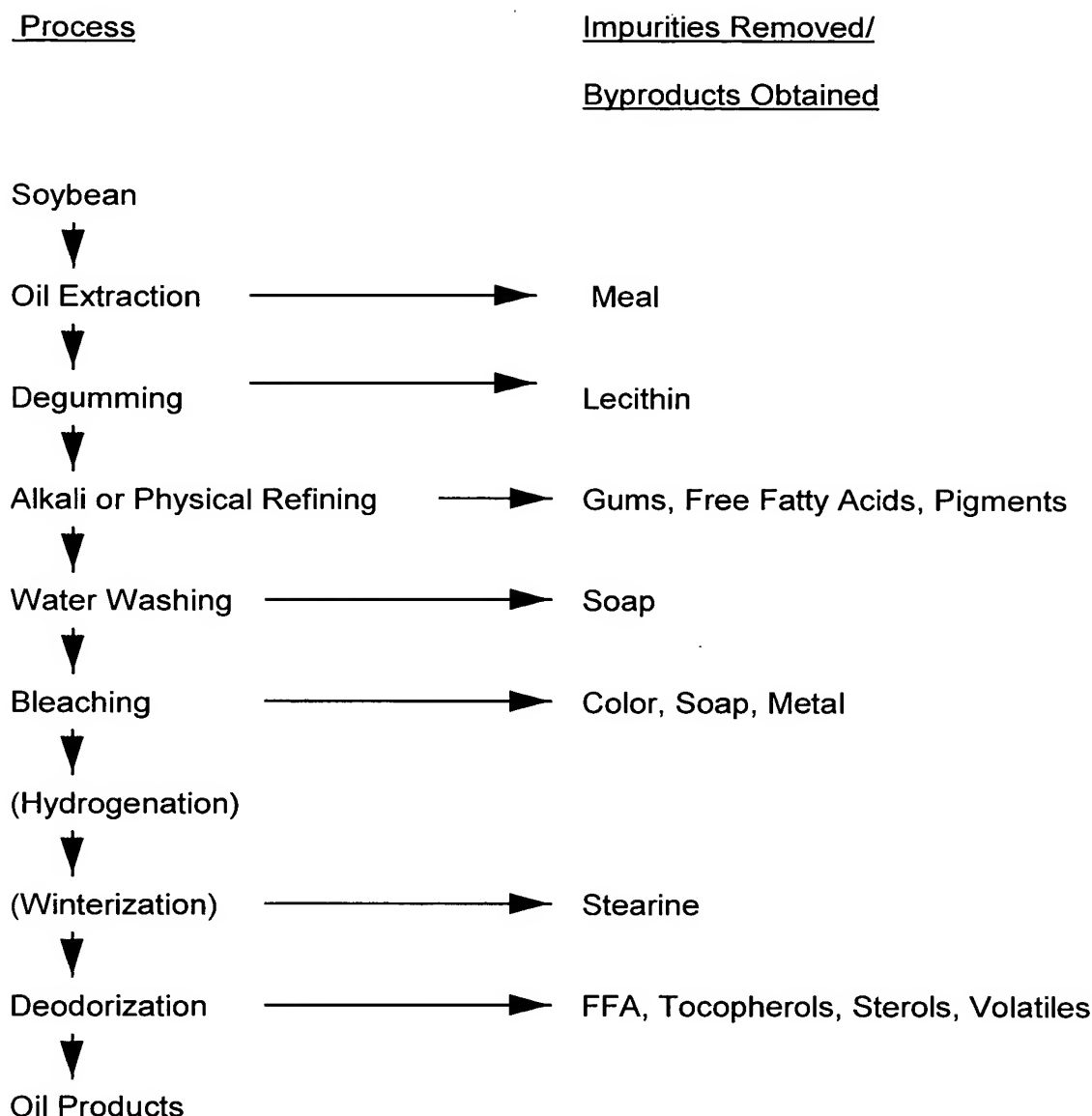
   Soybean seeds are cleaned, tempered, dehulled, and flaked which increases
the efficiency of oil extraction. Oil extraction is usually accomplished by solvent
5 (hexane) extraction but can also be achieved by a combination of physical pressure
and/or solvent extraction. The resulting oil is called crude oil. The crude oil may be
degummed by hydrating phospholipids and other polar and neutral lipid complexes
that facilitate their separation from the nonhydrating, triglyceride fraction (soybean
oil). The resulting lecithin gums may be further processed to make commercially
10 important lecithin products used in a variety of food and industrial products as
emulsification and release (antisticking) agents. Degummed oil may be further
refined for the removal of impurities; primarily free fatty acids, pigments, and

residual gums. Refining is accomplished by the addition of a caustic agent that reacts with free fatty acid to form soap and hydrates phosphatides and proteins in the crude oil. Water is used to wash out traces of soap formed during refining. The soapstock byproduct may be used directly in animal feeds or acidulated to recover

5   the free fatty acids. Color is removed through adsorption with a bleaching earth that removes most of the chlorophyll and carotenoid compounds. The refined oil can be hydrogenated resulting in fats with various melting properties and textures. Winterization (fractionation) may be used to remove stearine from the hydrogenated oil through crystallization under carefully controlled cooling conditions.

10   Deodorization which is principally steam distillation under vacuum, is the last step and is designed to remove compounds which impart odor or flavor to the oil. Other valuable byproducts such as tocopherols and sterols may be removed during the deodorization process. Deodorized distillate containing these byproducts may be sold for production of natural vitamin E and other high-value pharmaceutical

15   products. Refined, bleached, (hydrogenated, fractionated) and deodorized oils and fats may be packaged and sold directly or further processed into more specialized products. A more detailed reference to soybean seed processing, soybean oil production and byproduct utilization can be found in Erickson, 1995, Practical Handbook of Soybean Processing and Utilization, The American Oil Chemists'

20   Society and United Soybean Board.

Soybean oil is liquid at room temperature because it is relatively low in saturated fatty acids when compared with oils such as coconut, palm, palm kernel and cocoa butter. Many processed fats, including spreads, confectionary fats, hard butters, margarines, baking shortenings, etc., require varying degrees of solidity at

25   room temperature and can only be produced from soybean oil through alteration of its physical properties. This is most commonly achieved through catalytic hydrogenation.

Hydrogenation is a chemical reaction in which hydrogen is added to the unsaturated fatty acid double bonds with the aid of a catalyst such as nickel. High

30   oleic soybean oil contains unsaturated oleic, linoleic, and linolenic fatty acids and each of these can be hydrogenated. Hydrogenation has two primary effects. First, the oxidative stability of the oil is increased as a result of the reduction of the unsaturated fatty acid content. Second, the physical properties of the oil are changed because the fatty acid modifications increase the melting point resulting in

35   a semi-liquid or solid fat at room temperature.

There are many variables which affect the hydrogenation reaction which in turn alter the composition of the final product. Operating conditions including pressure, temperature, catalyst type and concentration, agitation and reactor design

are among the more important parameters which can be controlled. Selective hydrogenation conditions can be used to hydrogenate the more unsaturated fatty acids in preference to the less unsaturated ones. Very light or brush hydrogenation is often employed to increase stability of liquid oils. Further hydrogenation converts

5   a liquid oil to a physically solid fat. The degree of hydrogenation depends on the desired performance and melting characteristics designed for the particular end product. Liquid shortenings, used in the manufacture of baking products, solid fats and shortenings used for commercial frying and roasting operations, and base stocks for margarine manufacture are among the myriad of possible oil and fat

10   products achieved through hydrogenation. A more detailed description of hydrogenation and hydrogenated products can be found in Patterson, H. B. W., 1994, Hydrogenation of Fats and Oils: Theory and Practice. The American Oil Chemists' Society.

       Hydrogenated oils have also become controversial due to the presence of

15   trans fatty acid isomers that result from the hydrogenation process. Ingestion of large amounts of trans isomers has been linked with detrimental health effects including increased ratios of low density to high density lipoproteins in the blood plasma and increased risk of coronary heart disease.

       A snack food product comprises any of the above or below described food

20   products.

       A fried food product comprises any of the above or below described food products that has been fried.

       A health food product is any food product that imparts a health benefit. Many oilseed-derived food products may be considered as health foods.

25   The beverage can be in a liquid or in a dry powdered form.

       For example, there can be mentioned non-carbonated drinks; fruit juices, fresh, frozen, canned or concentrate; flavored or plain milk drinks, etc. Adult and infant nutritional formulas are well known in the art and commercially available (e.g., Similac®, Ensure®, Jevity®, and Alimentum® from Ross Products Division, Abbott

30   Laboratories).

       Infant formulas are liquids or reconstituted powders fed to infants and young children. They serve as substitutes for human milk. Infant formulas have a special role to play in the diets of infants because they are often the only source of nutrients for infants. Although breast-feeding is still the best nourishment for infants, infant

35   formula is a close enough second that babies not only survive but thrive. Infant formula is becoming more and more increasingly close to breast milk.

       A dairy product is a product derived from milk. A milk analog or nondairy product is derived from a source other than milk, for example, soymilk as was

discussed above. These products include, but are not limited to, whole milk, skim milk, fermented milk products such as yogurt or sour milk, cream, butter, condensed milk, dehydrated milk, coffee whitener, coffee creamer, ice cream, cheese, etc.

5   A pet food product is a product intended to be fed to a pet such as a dog, cat, bird, reptile, fish, rodent and the like. These products can include the cereal and health food products above, as well as meat and meat byproducts, soy protein products, grass and hay products, including but not limited to alfalfa, timothy, oat or brome grass, vegetables and the like.

           Animal feed is a product intended to be fed to animals such as turkeys,
10   chickens, cattle and swine and the like. As with the pet foods above, these products can include cereal and health food products, soy protein products, meat and meat byproducts, and grass and hay products as listed above.

           Aqualculture feed is a product intended to be used in aquafarming which concerns the propagation, cultivation or farming of aquatic organisms, animals
15   and/or plants in fresh or marine waters.

           In yet another embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises polyunsaturated fatty acids having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds wherein the ratio of EPA:DHA is in the range from
20   1:100 to 860:100. The oilseed plant may further have a total seed fatty acid profile comprising less than 2.0% arachidonic acid. Also of interest are seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.

           In still yet another embodiment, this invention includes an oilseed plant that produces mature seeds in which the total seed fatty acid profile comprises
25   polyunsaturated fatty acids having at least twenty carbon atoms and five or more carbon-carbon double bonds wherein the ratio of DHA:EPA is in the range from 1:100 to 110:100. The oilseed plant may further have a total seed fatty acid profile comprising less than 2.0% arachidonic acid. Also of interest are seeds obtained from such plants and oil obtained from the seeds of such plants.
30   It is reasonable to believe that any integer ratio of EPA:DHA from 1:100 through 860:100, or DHA:EPA from 1:100 through 110:100, might be obtainable in plants described or envisioned within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

EXAMPLES

           The present invention is further defined in the following Examples, in which
35   all parts and percentages are given as weight to volume, and degrees are Celsius, unless otherwise stated. It should be understood that these Examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and these Examples, one skilled in the art can

ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various uses and conditions. Thus, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will be apparent to

5   those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

The disclosures contained within the references used herein are hereby incorporated by reference.

GENERAL MATERIALS AND METHODS

10   Procedures for nucleic acid phosphorylation, restriction enzyme digests, ligation and transformation are well known in the art. Techniques suitable for use in the following examples may be found in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. and Maniatis, T., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1989) (hereinafter "Maniatis").

15   Materials and methods suitable for the maintenance and growth of bacterial cultures are well known in the art. Techniques suitable for use in the following examples may be found as set out in Manual of Methods for General Bacteriology (Phillipp Gerhardt, R. G. E. Murray, Ralph N. Costilow, Eugene W. Nester, Willis A. Wood, Noel R. Krieg and G. Briggs Phillips, eds), American Society for

20   Microbiology, Washington, DC. (1994)) or by Thomas D. Brock in Biotechnology: A Textbook of Industrial Microbiology, Second Edition, Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA (1989). All reagents, restriction enzymes and materials used for the growth and maintenance of bacterial and plant cells were obtained from Aldrich Chemicals (Milwaukee, WI), DIFCO Laboratories (Detroit, MI), GIBCO/BRL

25   (Gaithersburg, MD), or Sigma Chemical Company (St. Louis, MO) unless otherwise specified.

The meaning of abbreviations is as follows: "h" or "hr" means hour(s), "min" or "min." means minute(s), "sec" or "s" means second(s), "d" or "day" means day(s), "mL" means milliliters, "L" means liters.

30   Bacterial Strains and Plasmids:

E. coli TOP10 cells and E. coli electromax DH10B cells were obtained from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). Max Efficiency competent cells of E. coli DH5α were obtained from GIBCO/BRL (Gaithersburg, MD). Plasmids containing EPA or DHA biosynthetic pathway genes were obtained from Ross Products Division, Abbott

35   Laboratories, Columbus OH. The genes and the source plasmids are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1
EPA BIOSYNTHETIC PATHWAY GENES

Gene	Organism	Plasmid Name	Reference
Delta-6 desaturase	*S. diclina*	pRSP1	WO 02/081668
Delta-6 desaturase	*M. alpina*	pCGR5	US Patent 5,968,809
Elongase	*M. alpina*	pRPB2	WO 00/12720
Delta-5 desaturase	*M. alpina*	pCGR4	US Patent 6,075,183
Delta-5 desaturase	*S. diclina*	pRSP3	WO 02/081668
Delta-17 desaturase	*S. diclina*	pRSP19	Example 6
Elongase	*T. aureum*	pRAT-4-A7	WO 02/08401
Elongase	*Pavlova* sp.	pRPL-6-B2	Example 13
Delta-4 desaturase	*S. aggregatum*	pRSA1	WO 02/090493

Plasmids pKS102 and pKS121 are described in WO 02/00904. Plasmid
pKS123 is described in WO 02/08269. Plasmid pCF3 is described in [Yadav, N.S.
et al (1993) *Plant Physiol.* 103:467-76]. Cloning vector pCR-Script AMP SK(+) was
from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA). Cloning vector pUC19 [Messing, J. (1983) *Meth.
Enzymol.* 101:20] was from New England Biolabs (Beverly, MA). Cloning vector
pGEM-T easy was from Promega (Madison, WI).

Growth Conditions:

Bacterial cells were usually grown in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium containing
1% of bacto-tryptone, 0.5% of bacto-yeast extract and 1% of NaCl. Occasionaly,
bacterial cells were grown in SOC medium containing 2% of bacto-tryptone, 0.5% of
bacto-yeast extract, 0.5% of NaCl and 20 mM glucose or in Superbroth (SB)
containing 3.5% of bacto-tryptone, 2% of bacto-yeast extract, 0.05% of NaCl and
0.005 M NaOH.

Antibiotics were often added to liquid or solid media in order to select for
plasmids or insertions with appropriate antibiotic resistance genes. Kanamycin,
ampicillin and hygromycin were routinely used at final concentrations of 50 µg/mL
(Kan50), 100 µg/mL (Amp100) or 50 µg/mL (Hyg50), respectively.

EXAMPLE 1

Isolation of soybean seed-specific promoters

The soybean annexin and BD30 promoters were isolated with the Universal
GenomeWalker system (Clontech) according to its user manual (PT3042-1). To
make soybean GenomeWalker libraries, samples of soybean genomic DNA were
digested with *Dra*I, *Eco*RV, *Pvu*II and *Stu*I separately for two hours. After DNA
purification, the digested genomic DNAs were ligated to the GenomeWalker

adaptors AP1 and AP2.

Two gene specific primers (GSP1 and GSP2) were designed for soybean annexin gene based on the 5' coding sequences in annexin cDNA in DuPont EST database. The sequences of GSP1 and GSP2 are set forth in SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.

GCCCCCCATCCTTTGAAAGCCTGT   SEQ ID NO:1

CGCGGATCCGAGAGCCTCAGCATCTTGAGCAGAA   SEQ ID NO:2

The AP1 and the GSP1 primers were used in the first round PCR using the conditions defined in the GenomeWalker system protocol. Cycle conditions were 94°C for 4 minutes; 94°C for 2 second and 72°C for 3 minutes, 7 cycles; 94°C for 2 second and 67°C for 3 minutes, 32 cycles; 67°C for 4 minutes. The products from the first run PCR were diluted 50-fold. One microliter of the diluted products were used as templates for the second PCR with the AP2 and GSP2 as primers. Cycle conditions were 94°C for 4 minutes; 94°C for 2 second and 72°C for 3 min, 5 cycles; 94°C for 2 second and 67°C for 3 minutes, 20 cycles; 67°C for 3 minutes. A 2.1 kb genomic fragment was amplified and isolated from the *Eco*RV-digested GenomeWalker library. The genomic fragment was digested with *Bam*H I and *Sal* I and cloned into Bluescript KS$^+$ vector for sequencing. The DNA sequence of this 2012 bp soybean annexin promoter fragment is set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Two gene specific primers (GSP3 and GSP4) were designed for soybean BD30 based on the 5' coding sequences in BD30 cDNA in NCBI GenBank (J05560). The oligonucleotide sequences of the GSP3 and GSP4 primers have the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS:4 and 5.

GGTCCAATATGGAACGATGAGTTGATA   SEQ ID NO:4

CGCGGATCCGCTGGAACTAGAAGAGAGACCTAAGA   SEQ ID NO:5

The AP1 and the GSP3 primers were used in the first round PCR using the same conditions defined in the GenomeWalker system protocol. The cycle conditions used for soybean annexin promoter do not work well for the soybean BD30 promoter in GenomeWalker experiment. A modified touchdown PCR protocol was used. Cycle conditions were: 94°C for 4 minutes; 94°C for 2 second and 74°C for 3 minutes, 6 cycles in which annealing temperature drops 1°C every cycle; 94°C for 2 second and 69°C for 3 minutes, 32 cycles; 69°C for 4 minutes. The products

31

from the 1st run PCR were diluted 50-fold. One microliter of the diluted products were used as templates for the 2nd PCR with the AP2 and GSP4 as primers. Cycle conditions were: 94°C for 4 minutes; 94°C for 2 second and 74°C for 3 min, 6 cycles in which annealing temperature drops 1°C every cycle; 94°C for 2 second and 69°C

5   for 3 minutes, 20 cycles; 69°C for 3 minutes. A 1.5 kb genomic fragment was amplified and isolated from the *Pvu*II-digested GenomeWalker library. The genomic fragment was digested with *Bam*HI and *Sal*I and cloned into Bluescript KS⁺ vector for sequencing. DNA sequencing determined that this genomic fragment contained a 1408 bp soybean BD30 promoter sequence (SEQ ID NO:6).

10   Based on the sequences of the soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit promoter sequence in NCBI database (S44893), two oligos with either *Bam*HI or *Not*I sites at the 5' ends were designed to amplify the soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit promoter (SEQ ID NO:7). The oligonucleotide sequences of these two oligos are set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 8 and 9.

15

CGCGGATCCTATATATGTGAGGGTAGAGGGTATCAC   SEQ ID NO:8

GAATTCGCGGCCGCAGTATATATATTATTGGACGATGAAACATG SEQ ID NO:9

20   Based on the sequences of the soybean Glycinin Gy1promoter sequence in the NCBI GenBank database (X15121), two oligos with either *Bam*HI or *Not*I sites at the 5' ends were designed to amplify the soybean Glycinin Gy1 promoter (SEQ ID NO:10). The oligonucleotide sequences of these two oligos are set forth in SEQ ID NOS:11 and 12.

25

CGCGGATCCTAGCCTAAGTACGTACTCAAAATGCCA   SEQ ID NO:11

GAATTCGCGGCCGCGGTGATGACTGATGAGTGTTTAAGGAC SEQ ID NO:12

30   EXAMPLE 2
            Vector Construction for Characterizing Strong, Seed-specific Promoters
            EPA can be produced at high levels in the seeds of important oil crops, such as soy, by strongly expressing each of the individual biosynthetic genes together, in a seed specific manner. To reduce the chance of co-suppression, each individual

35   gene can be operably linked to a different, strong, seed-specific promoter. Because the biosynthetic pathway leading to EPA involves the concerted action of a large number of different genes, it was necessary to first identify and characterize many different promoters that could then be used to express each EPA biosynthetic gene.

Promoters were identified and tested for their relative seed-specific strengths by linking them to the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase which, in these experiments, acted as a reporter gene. The *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase can introduce a double bond between the C6 and C7 carbon atoms of linoleic acid (LA) and α-linolenic acid
5 (ALA) to form γ-linolenic acid (GLA) and stearidonic acid (STA), respectively. Because GLA and STA are not normally found in the lipids of soybean, their presence and concentration in soy was indicative of the relative strength of the promoter behind which the delta6 desaturase had been placed. Promoters tested in this way are listed in Table 2 and the plasmid construction for each is described
10 below.

TABLE 2
SEED-SPECIFIC PROMOTERS AND VECTORS

Promoter	Organism	Vector Name	Promoter Reference
β-conglycinin α'-subunit	Soy	pKR162	Beachy et al., (1985) EMBO J. 4:3047-3053
Kunitz Trypsin Inhibitor	Soy	pKR124	Jofuku et al., (1989) Plant Cell 1:1079-1093
annexin	Soy	pJS92	this report[1]
Glycinin Gy1	Soy	pZBL119	this report
Albumin 2S	Soy	pKR188	US Patent 6,177,613
Legumin A1	Pea	pKR189	Rerie et al. (1991) Mol. Gen. Genet. 225:148-157
β-conglycinin β-subunit	Soy	ZBL118	this report
BD30 (also called P34)	Soy	pJS93	this report[1]
Legumin A2	Pea	pKR187	Rerie et al. (1991) Mol. Gen. Genet. 225:148-157

[1]This also constitutes the subject matter of Applicant's Assignees's application having Application
15 No. 60/446,833 (Attorney Docket No. BB1531PRV) filed concurrently herewith.

The gene for the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase was PCR-amplified from pCGR5 using primers oCGR5-1 (SEQ ID NO:13) and oCGR5-2 (SEQ ID NO:14), which were designed to introduce *Not*I restriction enzyme sites at both ends of the
20 delta-6 desaturase and an *Nco*I site at the start codon of the reading frame for the enzyme.

TTGCGGCCGCAAACCATGGCTGCTGCTCCCAG   (SEQ ID NO:13)

AAGCGGCCGCTTACTGCGCCTTAC   (SEQ ID NO:14)

5   The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector
    pCR-Script AMP SK(+) (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's protocol to give
    plasmid pKR159. Plasmid pKR159 was then digested with NotI to release the
    M. alpina delta-6 desaturase, which was, in turn, cloned into the NotI site of a
    selected soybean expression vector. Each expression vector tested contained a
10 NotI site flanked by a suitable promoter and transcription terminator. Each vector
    also contained the hygromycin B phosphotransferase gene [Gritz, L. and Davies, J.
    (1983) Gene 25:179-188], flanked by the T7 promoter and transcription terminator
    (T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette), and a bacterial origin of replication (ori) for selection
    and replication in E. coli. In addition, each vector also contained the hygromycin B
15 phosphotransferase gene, flanked by the 35S promoter [Odell et al., (1985) Nature
    313:810-812] and NOS 3' transcription terminator [Depicker et al., (1982) J. Mol.
    Appl. Genet. 1:561:570] (35S/hpt/NOS3' cassette) for selection in soybean.
        Vector pKR162 was constructed by cloning the NotI fragment of pKR159,
    containing the delta-6 desaturase, into the NotI site of vector KS123. Vector KS123
20 contains a NotI site flanked by the promoter for the α' subunit of β-conglycinin and
    the phaseolin 3' transcription terminator elements (βcon/NotI/Phas3' cassette).
        Vector pKR188 was constructed by cloning the NotI fragment of pKR159,
    containing the delta-6 desaturase, into the NotI site of vector pKR135. Vector
    pKR135 contains a NotI site flanked by the 2S albumin promoter and the 2S
25 albumin 3' transcription terminator elements (SA/NotI/SA3' cassette). Plasmid
    pKR135 was constructed by cloning the BamHI/SalI fragment of pKR132,
    containing the SA/NotI/SA3' cassette, into the BamHI/SalI site of pKS120. Plasmid
    pKS120 is identical to pKS123 except the HindIII fragment containing the
    βcon/NotI/Phas3' cassette was removed. Plasmid pKR132, containing the
30 SA/NotI/SA3' cassette flanked by BamHI and SalI sites, was constructed by cloning
    the XbaI fragment of the SA/NotI/SA3' cassette, made by PCR amplification, into
    the XbaI site of pUC19. The albumin promoter was amplified from   plasmid AL3
    promoter::pBI121 (US Patent 6,177,613) using PCR. Primer oSAlb-9 (SEQ ID
    NO:15) was designed to introduce an XbaI site at the 5' end of the promoter, and
35 oSAlb-3 (SEQ ID NO:16) was designed to introduce a NotI site at the 3' end of the
    promoter.

34

ATCTAGACCTGCAGGCCAACTGCGTTTGGGGCTC   (SEQ ID NO:15)

CTTTTAACTTCGCGGCCGCTTGCTATTGATGGGTGAAGTG   (SEQ ID NO:16)

5   The albumin transcription terminator was amplified from soy genomic DNA using
     primer oSAlb-4 (SEQ ID NO:17), designed to introduce a *Not*I site at the 5' end of
     the terminator, and primer oSAlb-2 (SEQ ID NO:18), designed to introduce *Bsi*WI
     and *Xba*I sites at the 3' end of the terminator.

10   CAATAGCAAGCGGCCGCGAAGTTAAAAGCAATGTTGTC (SEQ ID NO:17)

     AATCTAGACGTACGCAAAGGCAAAGATTTAAACTC   (SEQ ID NO:18)

     The resulting PCR fragments were then combined and re-amplified using primers
15   oSAlb-9 and oSAlb-2, thus forming the SA/*Not*I/SA3' cassette, which was
     subsequently cloned into pUC19 to give pKR132.
             Vector pKR187 was constructed by cloning the *Not*I fragment of pKR159,
     containing the delta-6 desaturase, into the *Not*I site of vector pKR145. Vector
     pKR145 contains a *Not*I site flanked by the pea leguminA2 promoter and the pea
20   leguminA2 3' transcription terminator (legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette). Plasmid
     pKR145 was constructed by cloning the *Bam*HI/*Sal*I fragment of pKR142,
     containing the legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette, into the *Bam*HI/*Sal*I fragment of KS120
     (described above). The legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette of pKR142 was flanked by
     *Bsi*WI sites and contained a *Pst*I site at the extreme 5' end of legA2 promoter. In
25   addition, this cassette was flanked by *Bam*HI and *Sal*I sites. Plasmid pKR142 was
     constructed by cloning the *Bsi*WI fragment of pKR140, containing the
     legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette, into the *Bsi*WI site of pKR124, containing a bacterial
     ori and ampicillin resistance gene. This cloning step introduced the *Sal*I site and
     allowed further subcloning into pKS124. The legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette of
30   pKR140 was made by PCR amplification from pea genomic DNA. The legA2
     promoter was amplified from pea genomic DNA using primer LegPro5' (SEQ ID
     NO:19), designed to introduce *Xba*I and *Bsi*WI sites at the 5' end of the promoter,
     and primer LegPro3' (SEQ ID NO:20), designed to introduce a *Not*I site at the 3'
     end of the promoter.
35

     TTTCTAGACGTACGTCCCTTCTTATCTTTGATCTCC   (SEQ ID NO:19)

     GCGGCCGCAGTTGGATAGAATATATGTTTGTGAC   (SEQ ID NO:20)

The legA2 transcription terminator was amplified from pea genomic DNA using primer LegTerm5' (SEQ ID NO:21), designed to introduce *Not*I site at the 5' end of the terminator, and primer LegTerm3' (SEQ ID NO:22), designed to introduce *Bsi*WI

5 and *Xba*I sites at the 3' end of the terminator.

CTATCCAACTGCGGCCGCATTTCGCACCAAATCAATGAAAG   (SEQ ID NO:21)

AATCTAGACGTACGTGAAGGTTAAACATGGTGAATATG   (SEQ ID NO:22)

10

The resulting PCR fragments were then combined and re-amplified using primers LegPro5' and LegTerm3', thus forming the legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette. The legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector pCR-Script AMP SK(+) (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's

15 protocol to give plasmid pKR140. Plasmid pKR124 contains a *Not*I site flanked by the KTi promoter and the KTi transcription termination region (KTi/*Not*I/KTi3' cassette). In addition, the KTi/*Not*I/KTi3' cassette was flanked by *Bsi*WI sites. The KTi/*Not*I/KTi3' cassette was PCR-amplified from pKS126 using primers oKTi5 (SEQ ID NO:23) and oKTi6 (SEQ ID NO:24), designed to introduce an *Xba*I and *Bsi*WI

20 site at both ends of the cassette.

ATCTAGACGTACGTCCTCGAAGAGAAGGG   (SEQ ID NO:23)

TTCTAGACGTACGGATATAATG   (SEQ ID NO:24)

25

The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the *Xba*I site of the cloning vector pUC19 to give plasmid pKR124. Plasmid pKS126 is similar to pKS121 (WO 02/00904), the former possessing a second hygromycin phosphotransferase gene that is operably linked to a 35S-CaMV promoter.

30   Vector pKR189 was constructed by cloning the *Not*I fragment of pKR159, containing the delta-6 desaturase, into the *Not*I site of vector pKR154. Vector pKR154 contains a *Not*I site flanked by the pea leguminA1 promoter and the pea leguminA2 3' transcription terminator (legA1/*Not*I/legA23' cassette). Vector pKR154 was made by cloning the *Hind*III/*Not*I fragment of pKR151, containing the legA1 3'

35 promoter into the *Hind*III/*Not*I fragment of pKR150. Plasmid pKR151 contained a *Not*I site flanked by the leguminA1 promoter and the leguminA1 3' transcription terminator (legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette). In addition, the legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette was flanked by *Bsi*WI site. The legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette was made by

36

PCR amplification from pea genomic DNA. The legA1 promoter was PCR-amplified using primer LegA1Pro5' (SEQ ID NO:25), designed to introduce *Xba*I and *Bsi*WI sites at the 5' end of the promoter, and primer LegA1Pro3' (SEQ ID NO:26), designed to introduce a *Not*I site at the 3' end of the promoter.

5

TTTCTAGACGTACGGTCTCAATAGATTAAGAAGTTG   (SEQ ID NO:25)

GCGGCCGCGAAGAGAGATACTAAGAGAATGTTG   (SEQ ID NO:26)

10   The legA1 transcription terminator was amplified from pea genomic DNA using primer LegA1Term5' (SEQ ID NO:27), which was designed to introduce *Not*I site at the 5' end of the terminator, and primer LegA1Term3' (SEQ ID NO:28), which was designed to introduce *Bsi*WI and *Xba*I sites at the 3' end of the terminator.

15   GTATCTCTCTTCGCGGCCGCATTTGGCACCAAATCAATG   (SEQ ID NO:27)

TTTCTAGACGTACGTCAAAAAATTTCATTGTAACTC   (SEQ ID NO:28)

The resulting PCR fragments were then combined and re-amplified using primer
20   LegA1Pro5' and LegA1Term3', thus forming the legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette. The legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector pCR-Script AMP SK(+) (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's protocol to give plasmid pPL1A. The legA1/*Not*I/legA13' cassette was subsequently excised from pPL1A by digestion with *Bsi*WI and cloned into the *Bsi*WI site of
25   pKR145 (described above) to give pKR151. Plasmid pKR150 was constructed by cloning the *Bam*HI/*Hind*III fragment of pKR142 (described above), containing the legA2/*Not*I/legA23' cassette into the *Bam*HI/*Hind*III site of KS120 (described above).

The amplified soybean β-conglycinin β-subunit promoter fragment (as described in Example 1) was digested with *Bam*H I and *Not*I, purified and cloned
30   into the *Bam*H I and *Not*I sites of plasmid pZBL115 to make pZBL116. The pZBL115 plasmid contains the origin of replication from pBR322, the bacterial HPT hygromycin resistance gene driven by T7 promoter and T7 terminator, and a 35S promoter-HPT-Nos3' gene to serve as a hygromycin resistant plant selection marker. The Not I fragment of pKR159, containing the M. alpina delta 6 desaturase
35   gene, was cloned into Not I site of pZBL116 in the sense orientation to make plant expression cassettes pZBL118.

The amplified soybean glycinin Gy1 promoter fragment (described in Example 1) was digested with *Bam*H I and *Not*I, purified and cloned into the *Bam*H I

and *Not*I sites of plasmid pZBL115 to make pZBL117. The *Not*I fragment of pKR159, containing the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase gene, was cloned into *Not*I site of pZBL117 in the sense orientation to make plant expression cassettes pZBL119.

Based on the sequence of the soybean annexin promoter (SEQ ID NO:3), as described in Example 1, two oligos with either *Bam*H I or *Not*I sites at the 5' ends were designed to re-amplify the promoter. The oligonucleotide sequences of these two oligos are shown in SEQ ID NO:29 and SEQ ID NO:30.

CGCGGATCCATCTTAGGCCCTTGATTATATGGTGTTT   (SEQ ID NO:29)

GAATTCGCGGCCGCTGAAGTATTGCTTCTTAGTTAACCTTTCC (SEQ ID NO:30)

Based on the sequences of cloned soybean BD30 promoter (SEQ ID NO:6), as described in Example 1, two oligos with either BamH I or Not I sites at the 5' ends were designed to re-amplify the BD30 promoter. The oligonucleotide sequences of these two oligos are shown in SEQ ID NO:31 and SEQ ID NO:32.

CGCGGATCCAACTAAAAAAGCTCTCAAATTACATTTTGAG   (SEQ ID NO:31)

GAATTCGCGGCCGCAACTTGGTGGAAGAATTTTATGATTTGAAA   (SEQ ID NO:32)

The re-amplified annexin and BD30 promoter fragments were digested with *Bam*H I and *Not*I, purified and cloned into the *Bam*H I and *Not*I sites of plasmid pZBL115 to make pJS88 and pJS89, respectively. The pZBL115 plasmid contains the origin of replication from pBR322, the bacterial HPT hygromycin resistance gene driven by T7 promoter and T7 terminator, and a 35S promoter-HPT-Nos3' gene to serve as a hygromycin resistant plant selection marker. The *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase gene was cloned into *Not*I site of pJS88 and pJS89, in the sense orientation, to make plant expression cassettes pJS92 and pJS93, respectively.

EXAMPLE 3

Cloning of Individual EPA Biosynthetic Pathway Genes for Expression In Somatic Soybean Embryos

Each of the EPA biosynthetic genes was tested individually in order to assess their activities in somatic soybean embryos before combining for large-scale production transformation into soybean. Each gene was cloned into an appropriate expression cassette as described below. For the *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase and

38

elongase, both genes were combined together on one plasmid. The genes and promoters used, and the corresponding vector names are listed in Table 3.

TABLE 3
EPA BIOSYNTHETIC GENES EXPRESSED IN SOYBEAN SOMATIC EMBRYOS

Activity	Source Organism	Sequence (DNA)	Sequence (Protein)	Vector
Delta-6 desaturase	M. alpina	SEQ ID NO:33	SEQ ID NO:34	pKR162
Delta-6 desaturase	S. diclina	SEQ ID NO:35	SEQ ID NO:36	pKS208
Delta-5 desaturase	S. diclina	SEQ ID NO:37	SEQ ID NO:38	pKR305
elongase	T. aureum	SEQ ID NO:39	SEQ ID NO:40	pKS209
Delta-17 desaturase	S. diclina	SEQ ID NO:41	SEQ ID NO:42	pKS203
elongase	M. alpina	SEQ ID NO:43	SEQ ID NO:44	pKS134
Delta-5 desaturase	M. alpina	SEQ ID NO:45	SEQ ID NO:46	pKS134

Construction of pKR162, for soy expression studies with the M. alpina delta-6 desaturase, was described in Example 2.

The S. diclina delta-6 desaturase was cloned into the NotI site of the βcon/NotI/Phas3' cassette of vector pKS123. The gene for the S. diclina delta-6 desaturase was removed from pRSP1 by digestion with EcoRI and HindIII. The ends of the resulting DNA fragment were filled and the fragment was cloned into the filled NotI site of pKS123 to give pKS208.

To release the S. diclina delta-5 desaturase from plasmid pRSP3, it was first digested with XhoI, the XhoI ends were filled, and the plasmid was then digested with EcoRI. The delta-5 desaturase-containing fragment was then cloned into pKR288 that had been digested with MfeI and EcoRV to give pKR305. Plasmid pKR288 was identical to pKS123 except that a linker containing the MfeI (on the promoter side) and EcoRV (on the 3' terminal side) sites had been inserted into the NotI site of the βcon/NotI/Phas3' cassette. This allowed for directional cloning of the delta-5 desaturase, which contained internal NotI sites, into pKS123. Construction of pKR288 is more thoroughly described in Example 13.

39

The *T. aureum* elongase was cloned into the *Not*I site of the βcon/*Not*I/Phas3' cassette of vector pKS123. The gene for the *T. aureum* elongase was removed from pRAT-4-A7 by digestion with *Eco*RI. The ends of the resulting DNA fragment were filled and the fragment was cloned into the filled *Not*I site of

5   pKS123 to give pKS209.

The gene for the *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase (Example 6) was amplified from pRSP19 using primers RSP19forward (SEQ ID NO:53) and RSP19reverse (SEQ ID NO:54) which were designed to introduce *Not*I restriction enzyme sites at both ends of the delta-17 desaturase.

10

GCGGCCGCATGACTGAGGATAAGACGA   (SEQ ID NO:53)

GCGGCCGCTTAGTCCGACTTGGCCTTG   (SEQ ID NO:54)

15   The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector pGEM-T easy (Promega) according the manufacturer's protocol to give plasmid pRSP19/pGEM. The gene for the *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase was released from pRSP19/pGEM by partial digestion with *Not*I and cloned into the *Not*I site of pKS123 to give pKS203.

20   In plasmid pKS134, both the *M. alpina* elongase and *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase were cloned behind the β-conglycinin promoter followed by the phaseolin 3' transcription terminator (β con/Maelo/Phas3' cassette, βcon/Mad5/Phas3' cassette). Plasmid pKS134 was constructed by cloning the *Hind*III fragment of pKS129, containing the βcon/Mad5/Phas3' cassette, into a

25   *Hind*III site of partially digested pKS128, containing the βcon/Maelo/Phas3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and the bacterial *ori* region. The gene for the *M. alpina* elongase was amplified from pRPB2 using primers RPB2foward (SEQ ID NO:55) and RPB2reverse (SEQ ID NO:56) which were designed to introduce *Not*I restriction enzyme sites at both ends of the elongase.

30

GCGGCCGCATGGAGTCGATTGCGC   (SEQ ID NO:55)

GCGGCCGCTTACTGCAACTTCCTT   (SEQ ID NO:56)

35   The resulting PCR fragment was digested with *Not*I and cloned into the *Not*I site of pKS119, containing a βcon/*Not*I/Phas3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and the bacterial *ori* region, to give pKS128. Plasmid pKS119 is identical to pKS123, except that the 35S/HPT/NOS3' cassette had been removed. The gene

40

for the *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase was amplified from pCGR4 using primers CGR4foward (SEQ ID NO:57) and CGR4reverse (SEQ ID NO:58) which were designed to introduce *Not*I restriction enzyme sites at both ends of the desaturase.

5   GCGGCCGCATGGGAACGGACCAAG   (SEQ ID NO:57)

GCGGCCGCCTACTCTTCCTTGGGA   (SEQ ID NO:58)

The resulting PCR fragment was digested with *Not*I and cloned into the *Not*I site of
10   pKS119, containing a βcon/*Not*I/Phas3' cassette flanked by *Hind*III sites, to give pKS129.

EXAMPLE 4
Assembling EPA biosynthetic pathway genes for expression in Somatic Soybean
15   Embryos and Soybean Seeds (pKR274)

The *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase, *M. alpina* elongase and *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase were cloned into plasmid pKR274 (Figure 3) behind strong, seed-specific promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. The delta-6 desaturase was cloned behind the
20   promoter for the α' subunit of β-conglycinin [Beachy et al., (1985) *EMBO J.* 4:3047-3053] followed by the 3' transcription termination region of the phaseolin gene [Doyle, J.J. et al. (1986) *J. Biol. Chem.* 261:9228-9238] (βcon/Mad6/Phas3' cassette). The delta-5 desaturase was cloned behind the Kunitz soybean Trypsin Inhibitor (KTi) promoter [Jofuku et al., (1989) *Plant Cell* 1:1079-1093], followed by
25   the KTi 3' termination region, the isolation of which is described in US Patent 6,372,965 (KTi/Mad5/KTi3' cassette). The elongase was cloned behind the glycinin Gy1 promoter followed by the pea leguminA2 3' termination region (Gy1/Maelo/legA2 cassette). All of these promoters exhibit strong tissue specific expression in the seeds of soybean. Plasmid pKR274 also contains the hygromycin
30   B phosphotransferase gene [Gritz, L. and Davies, J. (1983) *Gene* 25:179-188] cloned behind the T7 RNA polymerase promoter and followed by the T7 terminator (T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette) for selection of the plasmid on hygromycin B in certain strains of *E. coli*, such as NovaBlue(DE3) (Novagen, Madison, WI), which is lysogenic for lambda DE3 (and carries the T7 RNA polymerase gene under *lacUV5*
35   control). In addition, plasmid pKR274 contains a bacterial origin of replication (*ori*) functional in *E. coli* from the vector pSP72 (Stratagene).

Plasmid pKR274 was constructed in many steps from a number of different intermediate cloning vectors. The Gy1/Maelo/legA2 cassette was released from

41

plasmid pKR270 by digestion with *Bsi*WI and *Sbf*I and was cloned into the *Bsi*WI/*Sbf*I sites of plasmid pKR269, containing the delta-6 desaturase, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and the bacterial *ori* region. This was designated as plasmid pKR272. The KTi/Mad5/KTi3' cassette, released from pKR136 by digestion

5 with *Bsi*WI, was then cloned into the *Bsi*WI site of pKR272 to give pKR274. A description for plasmid construction for pKR269, pKR270 and pKR136 is provided below.

Plasmid pKR159 (described in Example 2) was digested with *Not*I to release the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase, which was, in turn, cloned into the *Not*I site of the

10 soybean expression vector pKR197 to give pKR269. Vector pKR197 contains a βcon/*Not*I/Phas3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and the bacterial *ori* region. Vector pKR197 was constructed by combining the *Asc*I fragment from plasmid pKS102 (WO 02/00905), containing the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and bacterial *ori*, with the *Asc*I fragment of plasmid pKR72, containing the

15 βcon/*Not*I/Phas cassette. Vector pKR72 is identical to the previously described vector pKS123 (WO 02/08269), except that *Sbf*I, *Fse*I and *Bsi*WI restriction enzyme sites were introduced between the *Hind*III and *Bam*HI sites in front of the β-conglycinin promoter.

The gene for the *M. alpina* elongase was PCR-amplified (described in

20 Example 3) digested with *Not*I and cloned into the *Not*I site of vector pKR263 to give pKR270. Vector pKR263 contains a *Not*I site flanked by the promoter for the glycininGy1 gene and the leguminA2 3' transcription termination region (Gy1/*Not*I/legA2 cassette). In addition, the Gy1/*Not*I/legA2 cassette was flanked by *Sbf*I and *Bsi*WI sites. Vector pKR263 was constructed by combining the *Pst*I/*Not*I

25 fragment from plasmid pKR142, containing the leguminA2 3' transcription termination region, an ampicillin resistance gene and bacterial ori with the *Pst*I/*Not*I fragment of plasmid pSGly12, containing the glycininGy1 promoter. The glycininGy1 promoter was amplified from pZBL119 (described in Example 2) using primer oSGly-1 (SEQ ID NO:59), designed to introduce an *Sbf*I/*Pst*I site at the 5'

30 end of the promoter, and primer oSGly-2 (SEQ ID NO:60), designed to introduce a *Not*I site at the 3' end of the promoter.

TTCCTGCAGGCTAGCCTAAGTACGTACTC   (SEQ ID NO:59)

35   AAGCGGCCGCGGTGATGACTG   (SEQ ID NO:60)

The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector pCR-Script AMP SK(+) (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's protocol to

give plasmid pSGly12. Construction of pKR142, containing the legA2/*NotI*/legA23' cassette is described in Example 2. The gene for the *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase was PCR-amplified as described in Example 3, digested with *NotI* and cloned into the *NotI* site of vector pKR124 (described in Example 2) to give pKR136.

5

EXAMPLE 5

Assembling EPA biosynthetic pathway genes for expression in Somatic Soybean Embryos and Soybean Seeds (pKKE2)

The *S. diclina* delta-6 desaturase, *M. alpina* elongase and *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase were cloned into plasmid pKKE2 (Figure 4) behind strong, seed-specific

10 promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. Plasmid pKKE2 was identical to pKR274, described in Example 4, except that in pKKE2 the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase was replaced with the *S. diclina* delta-6 desaturase. As in pKR274, the *S. diclina* delta-6 desaturase was cloned behind the promoter for the α' subunit of β-conglycinin

15 followed by the 3' transcription termination region of the phaseolin gene (βcon/Sdd6/Phas3' cassette).

Plasmid pKKE2 was constructed from a number of different intermediate cloning vectors as follows: The βcon/Sdd6/Phas3' cassette was released from plasmid pKS208 (described in Example 2) by digestion with *Hind*III and was cloned

20 into the *Hind*III site of plasmid pKR272 (Example 3) to give pKR301. The KTi/Mad5/KTi3' cassette, released from pKR136, (Example 4) by digestion with *BsiWI*, was then cloned into the *BsiWI* site of pKR301 to give pKKE2.

EXAMPLE 6

Cloning of *S.diclina* (ATCC 56851) delta-17 desaturase

25 ### Construction of *Saprolegnia diclina* (ATCC 56851) cDNA Library

To isolate genes encoding for functional desaturase enzymes, a cDNA library was constructed. *Saprolegnia diclina* cultures were grown in potato dextrose media (Difco # 336, BD Diagnostic Systems, Sparks, MD) at room temperature for four days with constant agitation. The mycelia were harvested by filtration through

30 several layers of cheesecloth, and the cultures were crushed in liquid nitrogen using a mortar and pestle. The cell lysates were resuspended in RT buffer (Qiagen, Valencia, California) containing β-mercaptoethanol and incubated at 55°C for three minutes. These lysates were homogenized either by repeated aspirations through a syringe or over a "Qiashredder"-brand column (Qiagen). The total RNA

35 was finally purified using the "RNeasy Maxi"-brand kit (Qiagen), as per the manufacturer's protocol.

mRNA was isolated from total RNA from each organism using an oligo dT cellulose resin. The "pBluescript II XR"-brand library construction kit (Stratagene, La

43

Jolla, CA) was used to synthesize double-stranded cDNA. The double-stranded cDNA was then directionally cloned (5' *EcoRI*/3' *XhoI*) into pBluescript II SK(+) vector (Stratagene). The *S. diclina* library contained approximately 2.5 x 10⁶ clones, each with an average insert size of approximately 700 bp. Genomic DNA of *S.*

5 *diclina* was isolated by crushing the culture in liquid nitrogen followed by purification using the "Genomic DNA Extraction"-brand kit (Qiagen), as per the manufacturer's protocol.

Determination of Codon Usage in *Saprolegnia diclina*

The 5' ends of 350 random cDNA clones were sequenced from the

10 *Saprolegnia diclina* cDNA library described above. The sequences were translated into six reading frames using GCG program (Genetics Computer Group, Madison, WI) with the "FastA"-brand algorithm to search for similarity between a query sequence and a group of sequences of the same type, specifically within the GenBank database. Many of the clones were identified as putative housekeeping

15 genes based on protein homology to known genes. Eight *S. diclina* cDNA sequences were thus selected. Additionally, the full-length *S. diclina* delta 5-desaturase and delta 6-desaturase sequences were also used (see Table 4 below). These sequences were then used to generate the *S. diclina* codon bias table shown in Table 2 below by employing the "CodonFrequency" program from GCG (Madison,

20 WI).

TABLE 4

GENES FROM *Saprolegnia diclina* USED IN CODON BIAS TABLE

Clone	Database Match	# bases	# amino acids
3	Actin gene	615	205
20	Ribosomal protein L23	420	140
55	Heat Shock protein 70 gene	468	156
83	Glyceraldehyde-3-P-dehydrogenase gene	588	196
138	Ribosomal protein S13 gene	329	110
179	Alpha-tubulin 3 gene	591	197
190	Casein kinase II alpha subunit gene	627	209
250	Cyclophilin gene	489	163
	Delta 6-desaturase	1362	453

44

Clone	Database Match	# bases	# amino acids
	Delta 5-desaturase	1413	471
	Total	6573	2191

TABLE 5
CODON BIAS TABLE FOR *Saprolegnia diclina*

Amino acid	Codon Bias	% used
Ala	GCC	55%
Arg	CGC	50%
Asn	AAC	94%
Asp	GAC	85%
Cys	TGC	77%
Gln	CAG	90%
Glu	GAG	80%
Gly	GGC	67%
His	CAC	86%
Ile	ATC	82%
Leu	CTC	52%
Lys	AAG	87%
Met	ATG	100%
Phe	TTC	72%
Pro	CCG	55%
Ser	TCG	47%
Thr	ACG	46%
Trp	TGG	100%
Tyr	TAC	90%
Val	GTC	73%
Stop	TGA	67%

5

<u>Design of Degenerate Oligonucleotides for the Isolation of an Omega-3 Desaturase</u>
<u>from *Saprolegnia diclina* (ATCC 56851)</u>

The method for identification of a delta-17 desaturase (an omega-3 desaturase) gene from *S. diclina* involved PCR amplification of a region of the

5   putative desaturase gene using degenerate oligonucleotides (primers) that contained conserved motifs present in other known omega-3 desaturases. Omega-3 desaturases from the following organisms were used for the design of these degenerate primers: *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Swissprot # P46310), *Ricunus communis* (Swissprot # P48619), *Glycine max* (Swissprot # P48621), *Sesamum indicum*

10   (Swissprot # P48620), *Nicotiana tabacum* (GenBank # D79979), *Perilla frutescens* (GenBank # U59477), *Capsicum annuum* (GenBank # AF222989), *Limnanthes douglassi* (GenBank # U17063), and *Caenorhabditis elegans* (GenBank # L41807). Some primers were designed to contain the conserved histidine-box motifs that are important components of the active site of the enzymes. See Shanklin, J.E.,

15   McDonough, V.M., and Martin, C.E. (1994) *Biochemistry* 33, 12787-12794.

Alignment of sequences was carried out using the CLUSTALW Multiple Sequence Alignment Program (Thompson, J.D. et al. (1994) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 22:4673-4680).

The following degenerate primers were designed and used in various

20   combinations:

Protein Motif 1: NH₃- TRAAIPKHCWVK –COOH   (SEQ ID NO:61)

Primer RO 1144 (Forward):

25   ATCCGCGCCGCCATCCCCAAGCACTGCTGGGTCAAG   (SEQ ID NO: 62)

Protein Motif 2: NH₃- ALFVLG<u>HDCGH</u>GSFS –COOH   (SEQ ID NO:63)
This primer contains the histidine-box 1 (underlined).

30   Primer RO 1119 (Forward):
GCCCTCTTCGTCCTCGGCCAYGACTGCGGCCAYGGCTCGTTCTCG
(SEQ ID NO: 64).

Primer RO 1118 (Reverse):

35   GAGRTGGTARTGGGGGATCTGGGGGAAGARRTGRTGGRYGACRTG
(SEQ ID NO: 65).

Protein Motif 3: NH₃- PYHGWRIS<u>HRTHH</u>QN –COOH   (SEQ ID NO:66)
This primer contains the histidine-box 2 (underlined).

Primer RO 1121 (Forward):

5   CCCTACCAYGGCTGGCGCATCTCGCAYCGCACCCAYCAYCAGAAC
(SEQ ID NO: 67).

Primer RO 1122 (Reverse):
GTTCTGRTGRTGGGTCCGRTGCGAGATGCGCCAGCCRTGGTAGGG

10 (SEQ ID NO: 68).

Protein Motif 4: NH₃- GSHF D/H P D/Y SDLFV –COOH   (SEQ ID NO:69)

Primer RO 1146 (Forward):

15 GGCTCGCACTTCSACCCCKACTCGGACCTCTTCGTC   (SEQ ID NO: 70).

Primer RO 1147 (Reverse):
GACGAAGAGGTCCGAGTMGGGGTWGAAGTGCGAGCC (SEQ ID NO: 71).

20 Protein Motif 5: NH₃- WS Y/F L/V RGGLTT L/I DR –COOH   (SEQ ID NO:72)

Primer RO 1148 (Reverse):
GCGCTGGAKGGTGGTGAGGCCGCCGCGGAWGSACGACCA
(SEQ ID NO: 73)

25
Protein Motif 6: NH₃- HHDIGT<u>HVIHH</u>LFPQ –COOH (SEQ ID NO:74)
This sequence contains the third histidine-box (underlined).

Primer RO 1114 (Reverse):

30 CTGGGGGAAGAGRTGRTGGATGACRTGGGTGCCGATGTCRTGRTG
(SEQ ID NO: 75).

Protein Motif 7: NH₃- H L/F FP Q/K IPHYHL V/I EAT –COOH (SEQ ID NO:76)

35 Primer RO 1116 (Reverse):
GGTGGCCTCGAYGAGRTGGTARTGGGGGATCTKGGGGAAGARRTG
(SEQ ID NO: 77).

Protein Motif 8: NH₃- <u>HV A/I HH</u> L/F FPQIPHYHL –COOH (SEQ ID NO:78)

This primer contains the third histidine-box (underlined) and accounts for differences between the plant omege-3 desaturases and the *C. elegans* omega-3-desaturase.

5   The nucleic acid degeneracy code used for SEQ. ID. NOS: 62 through 77 was as follows. R= A/G; Y=C/T; M=A/C; K=G/T; W=A/T; S=C/G; B=C/G/T; D=A/G/T; H=A/C/T; V=A/C/G; and N=A/C/G/T.

<u>Identification and Isolation of Delta-17 Desaturase Gene from *Saprolegnia diclina*</u>
10   <u>(ATCC 56851)</u>

          Various sets of the degenerate primers above were used in PCR amplification reactions, using as a template either the *S. diclina* cDNA library plasmid DNA, or *S. diclina* genomic DNA. Also various different DNA polymerases and reaction conditions were used for the PCR amplifications. These reactions
15   variously involved using "Platinum Taq"-brand DNA polymerase (Life Technologies Inc., Rockville, MD), or cDNA polymerase (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA), or Taq PCR-mix (Qiagen), at differing annealing temperatures.

          PCR amplification using the primers RO 1121 (Forward) (SEQ. ID. NO:67) and RO 1116 (Reverse) (SEQ. ID. NO:77) resulted in the amplification of a fragment
20   homologous to a known omega-3 desaturase. The RO 1121 (Forward) primer corresponds to the protein motif 3; the RO 1116 (Reverse) primer corresponds to the protein motif 7.

          PCR amplification was carried out in a 50 µl total volume containing: 3 µl of the cDNA library template, PCR buffer containing 40 mM Tricine-KOH (pH 9.2),
25   15 mM KOAc, 3.5 mM Mg(OAc)₂, 3.75 µg/ml BSA (final concentration), 200 µM each deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate, 10 pmole of each primer and 0.5 µl of "Advantage"-brand cDNA polymerase (Clontech). Amplification was carried out as follows: initial denaturation at 94°C for 3 minutes, followed by 35 cycles of the following: 94°C for 1 min, 60°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min. A final extension cycle of
30   72°C for 7 min was carried out, followed by reaction termination at 4°C.

          A single ~480 bp PCR band was generated which was resolved on a 1% "SeaKem Gold"-brand agarose gel (FMC BioProducts, Rockland, ME), and gel-purified using the Qiagen Gel Extraction Kit. The staggered ends on the fragment were "filled-in" using T4 DNA polymerase (Life Technologies, Rockville, MD) as per
35   the manufacturer's instructions, and the DNA fragments were cloned into the PCR-Blunt vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The recombinant plasmids were transformed into TOP10 supercompetent cells (Invitrogen), and eight clones were sequenced and a database search (Gen-EMBL) was carried out.

48

Clones "sdd17-7-1" to "sdd17-7-8' were all found to contain and ~483 bp insert. The deduced amino acid sequence from this fragment showed highest identity to the following proteins (based on a "tFastA" search):

1. 37.9% identity in 161 amino acid overlap with an omega-3 (delta-15)

5 desaturase from *Synechocystis* sp. (Accession # D13780).

2. 40.7% identity in 113 amino acid overlap with *Picea abies* plastidic omega-3 desaturase (Accession # AJ302017).

3. 35.9% identity in 128 amino acid overlap with *Zea mays* FAD8 fatty acid desaturase (Accession # D63953).

10 Based on its sequence homology to known omega-3 fatty acid desaturases, it seemed likely that this DNA fragment was part of a delta-17 desaturase gene present in *S. diclina*.

The DNA sequence identified above was used in the design oligonucleotides to isolate the 3' and the 5' ends of this gene from the *S. diclina* cDNA library. To

15 isolate the 3' end of the gene, the following oligonucleotides were designed:

RO 1188 (Forward): 5'-TACGCGTACCTCACGTACTCGCTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 79)

RO 1189 (Forward): TTCTTGCACCACAACGACGAAGCGACG (SEQ ID NO: 80)

20

RO 1190 (Forward): GGAGTGGACGTACGTCAAGGGCAAC (SEQ ID NO: 81)

RO 1191 (Forward): TCAAGGGCAACCTCTCGAGCGTCGAC (SEQ ID NO: 82)

25 These primers (SEQ ID NOS: 79-82) were used in combinations with the pBluescript SK(+) vector oligonucleotide:
RO 898: 5'-CCCAGTCACGACGTGTAAAA CGACGGCCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 83).

PCR amplifications were carried out using either the "Taq PCR Master Mix" brand polymerase (Qiagen) or "Advantage"-brand cDNA polymerase (Clontech) or

30 "Platinum"-brand Taq DNA polymerase (Life Technologies), as follows:

For the "Taq PCR Master Mix" polymerase, 10 pmoles of each primer were used along with 1 μl of the cDNA library DNA from Example 1. Amplification was carried out as follows: initial denaturation at 94°C for 3 min, followed by 35 cycles of the following: 94°C for 1 min, 60°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min. A final extension

35 cycle of 72°C for 7 min was carried out, followed by the reaction termination at 4°C. This amplification resulted in the most distinct bands as compared with the other two conditions tested.

For the "Advantage"-brand cDNA polymerase reaction, PCR amplification was carried out in a 50 µl total volume containing: 1 µl of the cDNA library template from Example 1, PCR buffer containing 40 mM Tricine-KOH (pH 9.2), 15 mM KOAc, 3.5 mM Mg(OAc)$_2$, 3.75 µg/ml BSA (final concentration), 200 µM each

5   deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate, 10 pmole of each primer and 0.5 µl of cDNA polymerase (Clontech). Amplification was carried out as described for the Taq PCR Master Mix.

For the "Platinum"-brand Taq DNA polymerase reaction, PCR amplification was carried out in a 50 µl total volume containing: 1 µl of the cDNA library template

10   from Example 1, PCR buffer containing 20 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.4, 50 mM KCl (final concentration), 200 µM each deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate, 10 pmole of each primer, 1.5 mM MgSO$_4$, and 0.5 µl of Platinum Taq DNA polymerase. Amplification was carried out as follows: initial denaturation at 94°°C for 3 min, followed by 30 cycles of the following: 94°C for 45 sec, 55°C for 30 sec, 68°C for 2 min. The

15   reaction was terminated at 4°C.

All four sets of primers in combination with the vector primer generated distinct bands. PCR bands from the combination (RO 1188 + RO 898) were >500 bp and this was gel-purified and cloned separately. The PCR bands generated from the other primer combinations were <500 bp. The bands were gel-

20   purified, pooled together, and cloned into PCR-Blunt vector (Invitrogen) as described earlier. The recombinant plasmids were transformed into TOP10 supercompetent cells (Invitrogen) and clones were sequenced and analyzed.

Clone '"sdd17-16-4" and "sdd16-6" containing the ~500 bp insert, and clones "sdd17-17-6," "sdd17-17-10," and "sdd17-20-3," containing the ~400 bp inserts,

25   were all found to contain the 3'-end of the putative delta-17 desaturase. These sequences overlapped with each other, as well as with the originally identified fragment of this putative omega-3 desaturase gene. All of the sequences contained the 'TAA' stop codon and a poly-A tail typical of 3'-ends of eukaryotic genes. This 3'-end sequence was homologous to other known omega-3 desaturases, sharing

30   the highest identity (41.5% in 130 amino acid overlap) with the Synechocystis delta-15 desaturase (Accession # D13780).

For the isolation of the 5'-end of the this gene, the following oligonucleotides were designed and used in combinations with the pBluescript SK(+) vector oligonucleotide:

35   RO 899: 5'- AGCGGATAACAATTTCACACAGGAAACAGC -3' (SEQ ID NO: 84)

RO 1185 (Reverse):GGTAAAAGATCTCGTCCTTGTCGATGTTGC (SEQ ID NO: 85).

50

RO 1186 (Reverse): 5'-GTCAAAGTGGCTCATCGTGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 86)

RO 1187 (Reverse): CGAGCGAGTACGTGAGGTACGCGTAC (SEQ ID NO: 87)

5

Amplifications were carried out using either the "Taq PCR Master Mix"-brand polymerase (Qiagen) or the "Advantage"-brand cDNA polymerase (Clontech) or the "Platinum"-brand Taq DNA polymerase (Life Technologies), as described hereinabove for the 3' end isolation.

10   PCR bands generated from primer combinations (RO 1185 or RO 1186 + RO 899) were between ~580 to ~440 bp and these were pooled and cloned into PCR-Blunt vector as described above. Clones thus generated included "sdd17-14-1," "sdd17-14-10," "sdd17-18-2," and "sdd17-18-8," all of which showed homology with known omega-3 desaturases.

15   Additionally, bands generated from (RO 1187 + RO 899) were ~ 680 bp, and these were cloned separately to generate clones "sdd17-22-2" and "sdd17-22-5" which also showed homology with known omega-3 desaturases. All these clones overlapped with each other, as well as with the original fragment of the unknown putative delta-17 desaturase. These sequences contained an 'ATG' site followed by

20   an open reading frame, indicating that it is the start site of this gene. These fragments showed highest identity (39.7% in 146 amino acid overlap) with the delta-15 desaturase from *Calendula officinalis* (Accession # AJ245938).

The full-length reading frame for this delta-17 desaturase was obtained by PCR amplification of the *S. diclina* cDNA library using the following oligonucleotides:

25

RO 1212 (Forward):
5'-TCAACAGAATTCATGACCGAGGATAAGACGAAGGTCGAGTTCCCG-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 88)

30   This primer contains the 'ATG' start site (single underline) followed by the 5' sequence of the omega-3 desaturase. In addition, an *EcoR*I site (double underline) was introduced upstream of the start site to facilitate cloning into the yeast expression vector pYX242.

35   RO 1213 (Reverse):
5'-AAAAGAAAGCTTCGCTTCCTAGTC̲T̲T̲AGTCCGACTTGGCCTTGGC-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 89)

This primer contains the 'TAA' stop codon (single underline) of the gene as well as sequence downstream from the stop codon. This sequence was included because regions within the gene were very G+C rich, and thus could not be included in the design of oligonucleotides for PCR amplification. In addition, a *Hind*III site (double

5   underline) was included for convenient cloning into a yeast expression vector pYX242.

PCR amplification was carried out using the "Taq PCR Master Mix"-brand polymerase (Qiagen), 10 pmoles of each primer, and 1 µl of the cDNA library DNA from Example 1. Amplification was carried out as follows: initial denaturation at

10   94°C for 3 min, followed by 35 cycles of the following: 94°C for 1 min, 60°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min. A final extension cycle of 72°C for 7 min was carried out, followed by the reaction termination at 4°C.

A PCR band of ~1 kb was thus obtained and this band was isolated, purified, cloned into PCR-Blunt vector (Invitrogen), and transformed into TOP10 cells. The

15   inserts were sequenced to verify the gene sequence. Clone "sdd17-27-2" was digested with *Eco*RI / *Hind*III to release the full-length insert, and this insert was cloned into yeast expression vector pYX242, previously digested with *Eco*RI / *Hind*III. This construct contained 1077 bp of sdd17 cloned into pYX242. This construct was labeled pRSP19.

20   EXAMPLE 7
Assembly of EPA biosynthetic pathway genes for expression in Somatic Soybean
                      Embryos and Soybean Seeds (pKR275)

The *Arabidopsis* Fad3 gene [Yadav, N.S. et al. (1993), Plant Physiol.
103:467-76] and *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase were cloned into plasmid pKR275

25   (Figure 5) behind strong, seed-specific promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. The Fad3 gene SEQ ID NO:47, and its protein translation product in SEQ ID NO:48, was cloned behind the KTi promoter, and upstream of the KTi 3' termination region (KTi/Fad3/KTi3' cassette). The *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase was cloned behind

30   the soybean annexin promoter followed by the soy BD30 3' termination region (Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette). Plasmid pKR275 also contains a mutated form of the soy acetolactate synthase (ALS) that is resistant to sulfonylurea herbicides. ALS catalyzes the first common step in the biosynthesis of the branched chain amino acids isoleucine, leucine, and valine (Keeler et al, *Plant Physiol* 1993 102: 1009-18).

35   Inhibition of native plant ALS by several classes of structurally unrelated herbicides including sulfonylureas, imidazolinones, and triazolopyrimidines, is lethal (Chong CK, Choi JD *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2000 279:462-7). Overexpression of the mutated sulfonylurea-resistant ALS gene allows for selection of transformed

plant cells on sulfonylurea herbicdes. The ALS gene is cloned behind the SAMS promoter (described in WO 00/37662). This expression cassette is set forth in SEQ ID NO:90. In addition, plasmid pKR275 contains a bacterial *ori* region and the T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette for replication and selection of the plasmid on

5   hygromycin B in bacteria.

        Plasmid pKR275 was constructed from a number of different intermediate cloning vectors as follows: The KTi/Fad3/KTi3' cassette was released from plasmid pKR201 by digestion with *BsiWI* and was cloned into the *BsiWI* site of plasmid pKR226, containing the ALS gene for selection, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette

10   and the bacterial *ori* region. This was designated plasmid pKR273. The Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette, released from pKR271 by digestion with *PstI*, was then cloned into the *SbfI* site of pKR273 to give pKR275. A detailed description for plasmid construction for pKR226, pKR201 and pKR271 is provided below.

        Plasmid pKR226 was constructed by digesting pKR218 with *BsiWI* to remove

15   the legA2/NotI/legA3' cassette. Plasmid pKR218 was made by combining the filled *HindIII/SbfI* fragment of pKR217, containing the legA2/*NotI*/legA23' cassette, the bacterial *ori* and the T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette, with the *PstI/SmaI* fragment of pZSL13leuB, containing the SAMS/ALS/ALS3' cassette. Plasmid pKR217 was constructed by cloning the BamHI/HindIII fragment of pKR142 (described in

20   Example 2), containing the legA2/*NotI*/legA23' cassette, into the *BamHI/HindIII* site of KS102. The Arabidopsis Fad3 gene was released from vector pKS131 as a *NotI* fragment and cloned into the *NotI* site of pKR124 (described in Example 2) to form pKR201. The *NotI* fragment from pKS131 is identical to that from pCF3 [Yadav, N.S. et al (1993) *Plant Physiol.* 103:467-76])

25   The gene for the *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase was released from pRSP19/pGEM (described in Example 2) by partial digestion with *NotI*, and it was then cloned into the *NotI* site of pKR268 to give pKR271. Vector pKR268 contains a *NotI* site flanked by the annexin promoter and the BD30 3' transcription termination region (Ann/*NotI*/BD30 cassette). In addition, the Ann/*NotI*/BD30

30   cassette was flanked by *PstI* sites.

        To construct pKR268, the annexin promoter from pJS92 was released by *BamHI* digestion and the ends were filled. The resulting fragment was ligated into the filled BsiWI fragment of pKR124 (described in Example 2), containing the bacterial ori and ampicillin resistance gene, to give pKR265. This cloning step

35   added *SbfI*, *PstI* and *BsiWI* sites to the 5' end of the annexin promoter. The annexin promoter was released from pKR265 by digestion with *SbfI* and *NotI* and was cloned into the *SbfI/NotI* fragment of pKR256, containing the BD30 3' transcription terminator, an ampicillin resistance gene and a bacterial ori region, to

give pKR268. Vector pKR256 was constructed by cloning an *Eco*RI/*Not*I fragment from pKR251r, containing the BD30 3' transcription terminator, into the *Eco*RI/*Not*I fragment of intermediate cloning vector pKR227. This step also added a *Pst*I site to the 3' end the BD30 3' transcription terminator. Plasmid pKR227 was derived by

5   ligating the *Sal*I fragment of pJS93 containing soy BD30 promoter (WO 01/68887) with the *Sal*I fragment of pUC19. The BD30 3' transcription terminator was PCR-amplified from soy genomic DNA using primer oSBD30-1 (SEQ ID NO:91), designed to introduce an *Not*I site at the 5' end of the terminator, and primer oSBD30-2 (SEQ ID NO:92), designed to introduce a *Bsi*WI site at the 3' end of the terminator.

10

TGCGGCCGCATGAGCCG   (SEQ ID NO:91)

ACGTACGGTACCATCTGCTAATATTTTAAATC   (SEQ ID NO:92)

15   The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the intermediate cloning vector pCR-Script AMP SK(+) (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's protocol to give plasmid pKR251r.

<div align="center">

EXAMPLE 8

Assembling EPA biosynthetic pathway genes for expression in Somatic Soybean

20   Embryos-pKR328 & pKR329

</div>

The EPA biosynthetic genes were tested in combination in order to assess their combined activities in somatic soybean embryos before large-scale production transformation into soybean. Each gene was cloned into an appropriate expression cassette as described below.

25   Plasmid pKR329 was similar to pKR275, described in detail in Example 4, in that it contained the same KTi/Fad3/KTi3' and Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassettes allowing for strong, seed specific expression of the Arabidopsis Fad3 and *S. diclina* delta17 desaturase genes. It also contained the T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette and a bacterial *ori*. Plasmid pKR329 differed from pKR275 in that it contained the

30   hygromycin phosphotransferase gene cloned behind the 35S promoter followed by the NOS 3' untranslated region (35S/HPT/NOS3' cassette) instead of the SAMS/ALS/ALS3' cassette. The 35S/HPT/NOS3' cassette allowed for selection of transformed plant cells on hygromycin-containing media.

Plasmid pKR329 was constructed in many steps from a number of different

35   intermediate cloning vectors. The KTi/Fad3/KTi3' cassette was released from plasmid pKR201 (Example 7) by digestion with *Bsi*WI and was cloned into the *Bsi*WI site of plasmid pKR325, containing the 35S/HPT/NOS3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and bacterial *ori*. This was called plasmid pKR327.

<div align="center">54</div>

The Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette, released from pKR271 (Example 3) by digestion with *Pst*I, was then cloned into the *Sbf*I site of pKR327 to give pKR329. Plasmid pKR325 was generated from pKR72 (Example 4) by digestion with *Hind*III to remove the βcon/*Not*I/Phas3' cassette.

5   Plasmid pKR328 was identical to pKR329, described above, except that it did not contain the KTi/Fad3/KTi3' cassette. The Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette, released from pKR271 (Example 3) by digestion with *Pst*I, was cloned into the *Sbf*I site of pKR325 (described above) to give pKR328.

<div align="center">EXAMPLE 9</div>

10   <div align="center">Transformation of Somatic Soybean Embryo Cultures</div>

Culture Conditions

Soybean embryogenic suspension cultures (cv. Jack) were maintained in 35 ml liquid medium SB196 (see recipes below) on rotary shaker, 150 rpm, 26°C with cool white fluorescent lights on 16:8 hr day/night photoperiod at light intensity of

15   60-85 µE/m2/s. Cultures are subcultured every 7 days to two weeks by inoculating approximately 35 mg of tissue into 35 ml of fresh liquid SB196 (the preferred subculture interval is every 7 days).

Soybean embryogenic suspension cultures were transformed with the plasmids and DNA fragments described in the following examples by the method of

20   particle gun bombardment (Klein et al. 1987; *Nature*, 327:70). A DuPont Biolistic PDS1000/HE instrument (helium retrofit) was used for all transformations.

Soybean Embryogenic Suspension Culture Initiation

Soybean cultures were initiated twice each month with 5-7 days between each initiation.

25   Pods with immature seeds from available soybean plants 45-55 days after planting were picked, removed from their shells and placed into a sterilized magenta box. The soybean seeds were sterilized by shaking them for 15 minutes in a 5% Clorox solution with 1 drop of ivory soap (95 ml of autoclaved distilled water plus 5 ml Clorox and 1 drop of soap). Mix well. Seeds were rinsed using 2 1-liter bottles

30   of sterile distilled water and those less than 4 mm were placed on individual microscope slides. The small end of the seed was cut and the cotyledons pressed out of the seed coat. Cotyledons were transferred to plates containing SB1 medium (25-30 cotyledons per plate). Plates were wrapped with fiber tape and stored for 8 weeks. After this time secondary embryos were cut and placed into SB196 liquid

35   media for 7 days.

Preparation of DNA for Bombardment

Either an intact plasmid or a DNA plasmid fragment containing the genes of interest and the selectable marker gene was used for bombardment. Plasmid DNA

<div align="center">55</div>

for bombardment was routinely prepared and purified using the method described in the Promega™ Protocols and Applications Guide, Second Edition (page 106). Fragments of pKR274 (Example 4), pKKE2 (Example 5) and pKR275 (Example 7) were obtained by gel isolation of double digested plasmids. In each case, 100 ug of

5   plasmid DNA was digested in 0.5 ml of the specific enzyme mix described below. Plasmid pKR274 (Example 4) and pKKE2 (Example 5) were digested with *AscI* (100 units) and *EcoRI* (100 units) in NEBuffer 4 (20 mM Tris-acetate, 10 mM magnesium acetate, 50 mM potassium acetate, 1 mM dithiothreitol, pH 7.9), 100 ug/ml BSA, and 5 mM beta-mercaptoethanol at 37°C for 1.5 hr. Plasmid

10 pKR275 (Example 7) was digested with *AscI* (100 units) and *SgfI* (50 units) in NEBuffer 2 (10 mM Tris-HCl, 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 50 mM NaCl, 1 mM dithiothreitol, pH 7.9), 100 ug/ml BSA, and 5 mM beta-mercaptoethanol at 37°C for 1.5 hr. The resulting DNA fragments were separated by gel electrophoresis on 1% SeaPlaque GTG agarose (BioWhitaker Molecular Applications) and the DNA fragments

15 containing EPA biosynthetic genes were cut from the agarose gel. DNA was purified from the agarose using the GELase digesting enzyme following the manufacturer's protocol.

A 50 µl aliquot of sterile distilled water containing 3 mg of gold particles (3 mg gold) was added to 5 µl of a 1 µg/µl DNA solution (either intact plasmid or DNA

20 fragment prepared as described above), 50 µl 2.5M $CaCl_2$ and 20 µl of 0.1 M spermidine. The mixture was shaken 3 min on level 3 of a vortex shaker and spun for 10 sec in a bench microfuge. After a wash with 400 µl 100% ethanol the pellet was suspended by sonication in 40 µl of 100% ethanol. Five µl of DNA suspension was dispensed to each flying disk of the Biolistic PDS1000/HE instrument disk.

25 Each 5 µl aliquot contained approximately 0.375 mg gold per bombardment (i.e. per disk).

Tissue Preparation and Bombardment with DNA

Approximately 150-200 mg of 7 day old embryonic suspension cultures were placed in an empty, sterile 60 x 15 mm petri dish and the dish covered with plastic

30 mesh. Tissue was bombarded 1 or 2 shots per plate with membrane rupture pressure set at 1100 PSI and the chamber evacuated to a vacuum of 27-28 inches of mercury. Tissue was placed approximately 3.5 inches from the retaining / stopping screen.

Selection of Transformed Embryos

35 Transformed embryos were selected either using hygromycin (when the hygromycin phosphotransferase, HPT, gene was used as the selectable marker) or chlorsulfuron (when the acetolactate synthase, ALS, gene was used as the selectable marker).

Hygromycin (HPT) Selection

Following bombardment, the tissue was placed into fresh SB196 media and cultured as described above. Six days post-bombardment, the SB196 is exchanged with fresh SB196 containing a selection agent of 30 mg/L hygromycin. The

5   selection media is refreshed weekly. Four to six weeks post selection, green, transformed tissue may be observed growing from untransformed, necrotic embryogenic clusters. Isolated, green tissue was removed and inoculated into multiwell plates to generate new, clonally propagated, transformed embryogenic suspension cultures.

10   ## Chlorsulfuron (ALS) Selection

Following bombardment, the tissue was divided between 2 flasks with fresh SB196 media and cultured as described above. Six to seven days post-bombardment, the SB196 was exchanged with fresh SB196 containing selection agent of 100 ng/ml Chlorsulfuron. The selection media was refreshed weekly. Four

15   to six weeks post selection, green, transformed tissue may be observed growing from untransformed, necrotic embryogenic clusters. Isolated, green tissue was removed and inoculated into multiwell plates containing SB196 to generate new, clonally propagated, transformed embryogenic suspension cultures.

Regeneration of Soybean Somatic Embryos into Plants

20   In order to obtain whole plants from embryogenic suspension cultures, the tissue must be regenerated.

Embryo Maturation

Embryos were cultured for 4-6 weeks at 26°C in SB196 under cool white fluorescent (Phillips cool white Econowatt F40/CW/RS/EW) and Agro (Phillips F40

25   Agro) bulbs (40 watt) on a 16:8 hr photoperiod with light intensity of 90-120 uE/m2s. After this time embryo clusters were removed to a solid agar media, SB166, for 1-2 weeks. Clusters were then subcultured to medium SB103 for 3 weeks. During this period, individual embryos can be removed from the clusters and screened for alterations in their fatty acid compositions as described in Example 11. It should be

30   noted that any detectable phenotype, resulting from the expression of the genes of interest, could be screened at this stage. This would include, but not be limited to, alterations in fatty acid profile, protein profile and content, carbohydrate content, growth rate, viability, or the ability to develop normally into a soybean plant.

Embryo Desiccation and Germination

35   Matured individual embryos were desiccated by placing them into an empty, small petri dish (35 x 10 mm) for approximately 4-7 days. The plates were sealed with fiber tape (creating a small humidity chamber). Desiccated embryos were planted into SB71-4 medium where they were left to germinate under the same

culture conditions described above. Germinated plantlets were removed from germination medium and rinsed thoroughly with water and then planted in Redi-Earth in 24-cell pack tray, covered with clear plastic dome. After 2 weeks the dome was removed and plants hardened off for a further week. If plantlets looked hardy they were transplanted to 10" pot of Redi-Earth with up to 3 plantlets per pot. After 10 to 16 weeks, mature seeds were harvested, chipped and analyzed for fatty acids as described in Examples 10 and 11.

Media Recipes

SB 196 - FN Lite liquid proliferation medium (per liter) -

MS FeEDTA - 100x Stock 1	10 ml
MS Sulfate - 100x Stock 2	10 ml
FN Lite Halides - 100x Stock 3	10 ml
FN Lite P,B,Mo - 100x Stock 4	10 ml
B5 vitamins (1ml/L)	1.0 ml
2,4-D (10mg/L final concentration)	1.0 ml
KNO3	2.83 gm
(NH4)2 SO 4	0.463 gm
Asparagine	1.0 gm
Sucrose (1%)	10 gm
pH 5.8	

FN Lite Stock Solutions

Stock #		1000ml	500ml
1	**MS Fe EDTA 100x Stock**		
	Na_2 EDTA*	3.724 g	1.862 g
	$FeSO_4 - 7H_2O$	2.784 g	1.392 g
	*Add first, dissolve in dark bottle while stirring		
2	**MS Sulfate 100x stock**		
	$MgSO_4 - 7H_2O$	37.0 g	18.5 g
	$MnSO_4 - H_2O$	1.69 g	0.845 g
	$ZnSO_4 - 7H_2O$	0.86 g	0.43 g
	$CuSO_4 - 5H_2O$	0.0025 g	0.00125 g
3	**FN Lite Halides 100x Stock**		
	$CaCl_2 - 2H_2O$	30.0 g	15.0 g
	KI	0.083 g	0.0715 g
	$CoCl_2 - 6H_2O$	0.0025 g	0.00125 g

4   **FN Lite P,B,Mo 100x Stock**

KH_2PO_4	18.5 g	9.25 g
H_3BO_3	0.62 g	0.31 g
$Na_2MoO_4 - 2H_2O$	0.025 g	0.0125 g

5

SB1 solid medium (per liter)-

     1 pkg. MS salts (Gibco/ BRL - Cat# 11117-066)

     1 ml B5 vitamins 1000X stock

     31.5 g sucrose

10   2 ml 2,4-D (20mg/L final concentration)

     pH 5.7

     8 g TC agar

SB 166 solid medium (per liter) –

15   1 pkg. MS salts (Gibco/ BRL - Cat# 11117-066)

     1 ml B5 vitamins 1000X stock

     60 g maltose

     750 mg MgCl2 hexahydrate

     5 g activated charcoal

20   pH 5.7

     2 g gelrite

SB 103 solid medium (per liter) –

     1 pkg. MS salts (Gibco/BRL - Cat# 11117-066)

25   1 ml B5 vitamins 1000X stock

     60 g maltose

     750 mg MgCl2 hexahydrate

     pH 5.7

     2 g gelrite

30

SB 71-4 solid medium (per liter) –

     1 bottle Gamborg's B5 salts w/ sucrose (Gibco/BRL - Cat# 21153-036)

     pH 5.7

     5 g TC agar

35

2,4-D stock

– obtained premade from Phytotech cat# D 295 – concentration is 1 mg/ml

<u>B5 Vitamins Stock (per 100 ml) - store aliquots at -20C</u>

        10 g myo-inositol

        100 mg nicotinic acid

        100 mg pyridoxine HCl

5   1 g thiamine

        If the solution does not dissolve quickly enough, apply a low level of heat via the hot stir plate.

<u>Chlorsulfuron Stock</u>

10   -1mg / ml in 0.01 N Ammonium Hydroxide

<div align="center">

EXAMPLE 10

<u>Analysis of Somatic Soy Embryos containing various promoters driving <i>M. alpina</i> delta-6 desaturase</u>

</div>

15   Mature somatic soybean embryos are a good model for zygotic embryos. While in the globular embryo state in liquid culture, somatic soybean embryos contain very low amounts of triacylglycerol or storage proteins typical of maturing, zygotic soybean embryos. At this developmental stage, the ratio of total triacylglyceride to total polar lipid (phospholipids and glycolipid) is about 1:4, as is

20   typical of zygotic soybean embryos at the developmental stage from which the somatic embryo culture was initiated. At the globular stage as well, the mRNAs for the prominent seed proteins, α'-subunit of β-conglycinin, kunitz trypsin inhibitor 3, and seed lectin are essentially absent. Upon transfer to hormone-free media to allow differentiation to the maturing somatic embryo state, triacylglycerol becomes

25   the most abundant lipid class. As well, mRNAs for α'-subunit of β-conglycinin, kunitz trypsin inhibitor 3 and seed lectin become very abundant messages in the total mRNA population. On this basis somatic soybean embryo system behaves very similarly to maturing zygotic soybean embryos <i>in vivo</i>, and is therefore a good and rapid model system for analyzing the phenotypic effects of modifying the

30   expression of genes in the fatty acid biosynthesis pathway. Most importantly, the model system is also predictive of the fatty acid composition of seeds from plants derived from transgenic embryos.

       Transgenic somatic soybean embryos containing the <i>M. alpina</i> delta-6 desaturase expression vectors described in Example 2 were prepared using the

35   methods described In Example 9. Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared from single, matured, somatic soy embryos by transesterification. Embryos were placed in a vial containing 50 μL of trimethylsulfonium hydroxide (TMSH) and 0.5 mL of hexane and were incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature while shaking.

<div align="center">60</div>

Fatty acid methyl esters (5 µL injected from hexane layer) were separated and quantified using a Hewlett-Packard 6890 Gas Chromatograph fitted with an Omegawax 320 fused silica capillary column (Supelco Inc., Cat#24152). The oven temperature was programmed to hold at 220°C for 2.7 min, increase to 240°C at

5   20°C /min and then hold for an additional 2.3 min. Carrier gas was supplied by a Whatman hydrogen generator. Retention times were compared to those for methyl esters of standards commercially available (Nu-Chek Prep, Inc. catalog #U-99-A). The amount of GLA accumulated in embryo tissue was used as an indicator of the strength of each individual promoter. As indicated in Table 6, all of the promoters

10   tested were capable of driving expression of the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase.

TABLE 6

GLA Accumulation in Soybean Somatic Embryos: *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase gene linked to various promoters

15

Promoter	GLA (% fatty acid)
Soy α'-subunit β-conglycinin	40+
Soy KTi 3	40+
Soy Annexin	40
Soy Glycinin 1	35
Soy 2S albumin	22
Pea Legumin A1	10
Soy β'-subunit β-conglycinin	9
Soy BD30	8
Pea Legumin A2	3

EXAMPLE 11

Analysis of transgenic Somatic Soy Embryos and Seed Chips containing EPA Biosynthetic Genes

20   Transgenic somatic soybean embryos containing the expression vector pKR275 (Example 7) and either pKR274 (Example 4) or pKKE2 (Example 5) were prepared using the methods described in Example 9.

A portion of the somatic soy embryos from each line generated was harvested and analyzed for fatty acid composition by GC as described in Example

61

10. Approximately 10 embryos were analyzed for each individual transformation event. Fatty acids were identified by comparison of retention times to those for authentic standards. In this way, 471 events were analyzed for pKR274/pKR275 and 215 events were analyzed for pKKE/pKR275. From the 471 lines analyzed for

5   pKR274/pKR275, 10 were identified that produced EPA (average of 10 individual embryos) at a relative abundance greater than 7% of the total fatty acids. The best line analyzed averaged 9% EPA with the best embryo of this line having 13% EPA. From the 215 lines analyzed for KKE/KR275, 11 lines were identified that produced EPA (average of 10 individual embryos) at a relative abundance greater than 9% of

10   the total fatty acids. The best line analyzed averaged 13% EPA with the best embryo of this line having 16% EPA. The best EPA-producing events from each construct set are shown in Table 7. In Table 7, clones 3306-2-3 to 3324-1-3 are pKR274/pKR275 events and 3338-6-3 to 3338-6-24 are pKKE2 events. Fatty acids in Table 7 ar defined as X:Y where X is the fatty acid chain length and Y is the

15   number of double bonds. In addition, fatty acids from Table 7 are further defined as follows where the number in parentheses corresponds to the position of the double bonds from the carboxyl end of the fatty acid: 18:1=18:1(9), 18:2=18:2(9,12), GLA=18:3(6,9,12), 18:3=18:3(9,12,15), STA=18:4(6,9,12,15), HGLA=20:3(8,11,14), ARA=20:4(5,8,11,14), ETA=20:4(8,11,14,17), EPA=20:5(5,8,11,14,17) and

20   DPA=22:5(7,10,13,16,19). Fatty acids listed as "others" include: 20:0, 20:1(5), 20:2(11,14), 20:3 (5,11,14), 20:3 (11,14,17), 20:4 (5,11,14,17), and 22:0. For KKE2 events each of these fatty acids is present at relative abundance of less than 1% of the total fatty acids. For KR274/275 each of these fatty acids is present at relative abundance of less than 1% of total fatty acids except for events 3306-5-2, 3319-6-1,

25   3319-2-13 in which 20:3 (11,14,17) and 20:4 (5,11,14,17) are both in the range of 1.1 to 2.2% of total fatty acids.

TABLE 7

Fatty acid analyses of transgenic soybean somatic embryos producing C20 PUFAs

Clone ID	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	GLA	18:3	STA	HGLA	ARA	ETA	EPA	DPA	Others
3306-2-3	14.9	2.3	6.3	15.8	21.7	11.5	4.5	4.8	0.8	2.7	8.4	1.2	2
3306-5-2	14.2	4.4	11.7	19.4	4.6	20.8	1.5	1.5	0.2	1.5	7.7	4.2	5.3
3319-3-1	18.2	2.9	11.0	19.1	15.6	14.5	3.4	1.8	1.3	0.6	8.4	0.6	1.2
3319-6-1	11.1	3.7	16.6	12.9	10.7	12.1	3.3	5.0	0.8	2.8	9.3	2.0	4
3319-2-13	12.7	3.3	17.5	14.2	10.8	15.9	3.1	2.4	0.1	2.8	8.0	1.1	3.3
3319-2-16	12.7	2.5	8.5	18.1	10.3	12.1	2.3	3.4	4.0	1.0	7.3	2.5	2.3
3319-3-6	11.7	2.0	10.1	13.2	11.5	7.7	1.9	2.8	0.7	1.8	9.3	1.8	3.3
3320-6-1	15.3	3.7	13.5	10.7	14.8	12.4	4.5	6.6	1.4	2.4	8.0	1.2	2.4
3322-5-2	13.9	2.9	14.4	15.6	17.4	13.8	3.5	2.9	0.2	1.8	8.1	0.9	2.2
3324-1-3	12.0	4.4	18.6	17.6	13.9	7.8	1.8	4.8	0.3	3.4	8.1	0.8	2.9
3338-6-3	14.3	3.2	18.1	11.0	13.7	8.8	3.0	5.1	0.2	5.3	9.6	1.2	2.1
3338-7-11	20.5	2.9	9.9	10.6	8.9	17.3	3.8	2.0	0.4	3.0	12.8	1.8	1.9
3338-7-12	16.5	2.1	15.2	15.4	16.1	11.5	2.5	1.7	0.2	2.0	10.0	0.8	1.2
3338-3-4	20.2	3.9	6.7	11.9	9.9	10.5	3.9	4.6	1.8	3.1	12.0	3.2	2.1
3338-3-5	14.7	2.2	12.4	12.4	17.6	10.8	4.7	2.9	1.3	1.4	10.0	0.9	1.8
3338-6-10	13.7	1.8	12.4	8.3	16.4	14.0	5.8	3.2	0.3	4.0	12.1	1.2	2.2
3338-6-12	13.9	2.4	13.1	9.4	22.7	5.7	3.1	4.0	0.4	3.3	13.3	0.9	1.5
3338-7-21	14.8	1.7	8.4	13.1	20.2	12.5	4.8	3.9	0.4	3.6	11.6	0.6	2
3338-7-30	15.4	2.8	18.9	12.9	9.6	10.1	2.4	2.3	0.5	2.3	13.0	2.6	2.4
3338-1-4	14.1	2.1	10.8	26.3	13.8	9.6	1.9	3.3	1.1	1.9	10.1	1.0	1.3
3338-6-24	25.1	4.5	13.3	4.0	15.5	3.1	2.6	5.3	0.7	4.0	13.0	0.9	1.7

Mature plants were regenerated from the highest EPA-producing embryos as described in Example 10, and the fatty acid analyses were performed on chips of the seeds from the regenerated plants. The results for six seeds from three plants are presented in Table 8. Seeds of control plants possessed fatty aid profiles typical of normal soybean, in which linolenic acid (18:3) was the most highly unsaturated fatty acid that was detectable. Seeds produced from plants that had a reconstituted pathway for C20 PUFAs had as much as 25% of their total fatty acid in the form of C20 material. Combined levels of EPA and DPA were frequently greater than 15%, and were as high as 23.5% of the total.

TABLE 8

Event	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	GLA	18:3	STA	HGLA	ARA	ETA	EPA	DPA	Other	EPA+ DPA
3338-3-4-7	14.4	8.5	19.7	9.1	9.1	3.1	1.2	6.6	1.0	2.4	18.8	4.1	2.0	22.9
	13.2	5.5	18.6	10.4	11.7	3.3	1.1	10.1	2.2	2.4	19.6	0.8	1.2	20.4
	15.6	9.0	13.9	16.6	6.6	7.1	0.0	3.9	0.0	1.8	15.5	4.2	5.8	19.7
	22.4	8.8	20.8	14.2	5.0	3.8	0.6	3.0	1.0	1.1	14.0	3.1	2.2	17.1
	13.2	7.5	27.0	12.8	9.0	2.8	0.9	5.7	1.8	1.2	11.2	4.0	2.9	15.2
	15.2	4.9	18.3	12.3	13.3	3.5	1.3	10.5	5.3	2.4	12.9	0.0	0.0	12.9
3338-7-11-11	13.0	7.1	13.6	13.1	13.0	5.9	1.7	5.2	0.5	0.4	16.4	4.3	5.8	20.7
	12.9	7.3	13.1	14.9	9.6	7.2	1.7	5.9	0.8	0.6	14.3	4.7	7.0	18.9
	12.4	7.6	15.9	12.6	13.6	5.4	1.8	6.0	0.5	0.0	15.2	3.7	5.2	18.9
	15.0	5.9	18.4	16.0	10.2	8.4	1.7	4.0	0.6	0.0	13.9	2.4	3.5	16.3
	13.8	5.9	19.6	18.0	7.2	10.8	1.5	3.4	0.4	0.0	10.8	3.2	5.5	14.0
	16.2	6.2	15.2	22.4	6.9	9.2	1.1	3.4	0.8	0.0	11.7	2.2	4.6	13.9

Event	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	GLA	18:3	STA	HGLA	ARA	ETA	EPA	DPA	Other	EPA+ DPA
3339-5-3-7	13.7	8.1	6.9	8.1	16.5	4.7	1.8	7.1	0.7	2.2	19.5	4.0	6.7	23.5
	15.4	6.9	11.8	16.4	10.0	4.3	0.8	4.7	1.2	1.4	16.3	3.5	7.3	19.8
	14.7	6.3	13.6	18.1	8.1	3.1	0.9	4.3	2.1	0.1	14.9	4.2	9.6	19.1
	12.3	6.5	20.9	13.1	15.1	3.0	1.0	6.1	1.2	1.4	10.6	1.4	7.3	12.1
	12.2	6.4	22.9	13.7	12.0	2.9	0.9	5.7	1.3	1.3	9.9	1.7	9.1	11.7
	13.5	7.2	22.9	11.8	8.9	3.6	0.8	6.5	2.2	1.7	9.6	1.6	9.8	11.2
Control	17.3	4.3	13.4	51.6	0.0	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	17.1	4.8	12.1	50.5	0.0	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Others= sum of 20:0, 20:1 (d5), 20:1 (d11), 20:2 (d8,11), 20:2 (d11,14), 20:3 (d5,11,14), 20:3 (d11,14,17), 20:4 (d5,11,14,17) each of which is present at less than 2% of TFA

EXAMPLE 12
Isolation of a Novel Elongase Gene from the
Algae *Pavlova sp.* (CCMP459)

The fatty acid composition of the algae *Pavlova sp.* (CCMP 459) (Pav459) was investigated to determine the polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) produced by this organism. This algae showed a substantial amount of long chain PUFAs including eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA, 20:5n-3) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA, 22:6n-3). Thus, Pav459 was predicted to possess an elongase capable of converting EPA to ω3-docosapentaenoic acid (DPA, 22:5n-3), which a delta-4 desaturase can convert to DHA. The goal was therefore to isolate the predicted elongase gene from Pav459, and to verify the functionality of the enzyme by expression in an alternate host.

Frozen pellets of Pav459 were obtained from Provasoli-Guillard National Center for Culture of Marine Phytoplankton (CCMP, West Boothbay Harbor, ME). These pellets were crushed in liquid nitrogen and total RNA was extracted from Pav459 by using the Qiagen RNeasy Maxi Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA), per manufacturers instructions. From this total RNA, mRNA was isolated using oligo dT cellulose resin, which was then used for the construction of a cDNA library using the pSport 1 vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The cDNA thus produced was directionally cloned (5'*SalI*/3'*NotI*) into pSport1 vector. The Pav459 library contained approximately 6.1 x 10^5 clones per ml, each with an average insert size of approximately 1200 bp. Two thousand five hundred primary clones from this library were sequenced from the 5' end using the T7 promoter primer (SEQ ID NO:93).

TAATACGACTCACTATTAGG   SEQ ID NO:93

Sequencing was carried out using the ABI BigDye sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems, CA) and the MegaBase Capillary DNA sequencer (Amersham

biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). Two clones, designated 'pav06-C06' and pav07-G01,' which aligned to give a 500 bp sequence containing the 5' end of this novel elongase, were obtained from sequencing of the 2,500 library clones. This fragment shared 33.3% amino acid sequence identity with the mouse elongase MELO4 and

5   32.7% amino acid sequence identity with *T. aureum* elongase TELO1 (WO 02/08401). To isolate the full-length gene, the EST clone pav06-C06 was used as a template for PCR reaction with 10 pmol of the 5' primer RO1327 (SEQ ID NO:94) and 10 pmol vector primer RO898 (SEQ ID NO:83).

10   TGCCCATGATGTTGGCCGCAGGCTATCTTCTAGTG   SEQ ID NO:94

PCR amplification was carried out using Platinum Taq DNA polymerase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) in a 50 µl total volume containing: 1 µl of the cDNA clone pav06-C06, PCR buffer containing 20 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.4, 50 mM KCl (final

15   concentration), 200 µM each deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate, 10 pmole of each primer, 1.5 mM $MgSO_4$, and 0.5 µl of Platinum Taq (HF) DNA polymerase. Amplification was carried out as follows using the Perkin Elmer 9700 machine: initial denaturation at 94°C for 3 minute, followed by 35 cycles of the following: 94°C for 45 sec, 55°C for 30 sec, 68°C for 2 min. The reaction was terminated at 4°C. The

20   PCR amplified mixture was run on a gel, an amplified fragment of approximately 1.3 Kb was gel purified, and the isolated fragment was cloned into the pCR-blunt vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The recombinant plasmid was transformed into TOP10 supercompetent cells (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), and prepared. The prepared recombinant plasmid was digested with *EcoR*I, run on a gel, and the

25   digested fragment of approximately 1.2 Kb was gel purified, and cloned into pYX242 (EcoRI) vector (Novagen, Madison, WI). The new plasmid was designated as pRPL-6-1.

The plasmid pRPL-6-1 was prepared and sequenced using ABI 373A Stretch DNA Sequencer (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA). The translated amino acid

30   sequence of the cDNA in pRPL-6-1 had 33.7% identity in 261 amino acids with MELO4, 33.8% identity in 240 amino acids with GLELO, 28.1% identity in 274 amino acids with HSELO1, and 32.5% identity in 246 amino acids with TELO1 (WO 02/08401).

The construct pRPL-6-1 was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* 334 (Hoveland et

35   al. (1989) *Gene* 83:57-64) and screened for elongase activity. *S. cerevisiae* 334 containing the unaltered pYX242 vector was used as a negative control. The cultures were grown for 44 hours at 24°C, in selective media (Ausubel *et al.*, (1992)

<u>Short Protocols in Molecular Biology</u>, Ch. 13, p. 3-5), in the presence of 25 µM of GLA or EPA. In this study, DGLA or ω3-docosapentaenoic acid (DPA, 22:5n-3), respectively, was the predicted product of the elongase activity. The lipid profiles of these yeast cultures indicated that while no conversion of GLA to DGLA was seen,

5   EPA was elongated to DPA at a very low level (DPA was 0.34% of total fatty acids, while EPA was 32.28% of total fatty acids). This indicated that the expressed enzyme in this culture preferred the elongation of 20 carbon chain long PUFA, and not the 18 carbon chain long PUFA, GLA. It also indicated that a mutation might be present in the DNA sequence, which is inhibiting the full activity of the expressed

10   enzyme.

      To isolate the full-length gene without mutations, RACE (rapid amplification of cDNA ends) ready cDNA was used as a target for the reaction. To prepare this material, approximately 5 µg of total RNA was used according to the manufacturer's direction with the GeneRacer™ kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and Superscript II™

15   enzyme (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) for reverse transcription to produce cDNA target. This cDNA was then used as a template for a PCR reaction with 50 pmols of the 5' primer RO1327 and 30 pmol GeneRacer™ 3' primer (SEQ ID NO:95).

      GCTGTCAACGATACGCTACGTAACG   SEQ ID NO:95

20

      PCR amplification was carried out using Platinum Taq DNA polymerase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) in a 50 µl total volume containing: 2 µl of the RACE ready cDNA, PCR buffer containing 20 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8.4, 50 mM KCl (final concentration), 200 µM each deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate, 10 pmole of each

25   primer, 1.5 mM $MgSO_4$, and 0.5 µl of Platinum Taq (HF) DNA polymerase. Amplification was carried out as follows using the Perkin Elmer 9600 machine: initial denaturation at 94°C for 3 minute, followed by 35 cycles of the following: 94°C for 45 sec, 55°C for 30 sec, 68°C for 2 min. The reaction was terminated at 4°C.

      The PCR amplified mixture was run on a gel, an amplified fragment of

30   approximately 1.2 Kb was gel purified, and the isolated fragment was cloned into the PCR-blunt vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The recombinant plasmids were transformed into TOP10 supercompetent cells (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), and prepared. The prepared recombinant plasmid was digested with *EcoRI*, run on a gel, and the digested fragment of approximately 1.2 Kb was gel purified, and cloned

35   into pYX242 (*EcoRI*) vector (Novagen, Madison, WI). The new plasmids were designated as pRPL-6-B2 and pRPL-6-A3.

      The plasmids pRPL-6-B2 and pRPL-6-A3 were prepared and sequenced using ABI 373A Stretch DNA Sequencer (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA). The

translated amino acid sequence of the cDNA in pRPL-6-B2 had 34.1% identity in 261 amino acids with MELO4, 33.8% identity in 240 amino acids with GLELO, 28.5% identity in 274 amino acids with HSELO1, and 32.5% identity in 246 amino acids with TELO1. (Plasmid pRPL-6-B2 was deposited with the American Type

5   Culture Collection, 10801 Manassas, VA 20110-2209 under the terms of the Budapest Treaty and was accorded accession number PTA-4350.)

The constructs pRPL-6-B2 and pRPL-6-A3 were transformed into *S. cerevisiae* 334 (Hoveland et al., *supra*) and screened for elongase activity. *S. cerevisiae* 334 containing the unaltered pYX242 vector was used as a negative

10   control. The cultures were grown for 44 hours at 24°C, in selective media (Ausubel et al., supra), in the presence of 25 µM of GLA or EPA. In this study, DGLA or ω3-docosapentaenoic acid (DPA, 22:5n-3), respectively, was the predicted product of the elongase activity. The lipid profiles of these yeast cultures indicated that GLA was not elongated to DGLA in any of the samples (data not shown). The cultures of

15   334(pRPL-6-B2) and 334(pRAT-6-A3) had significant levels of conversion of the substrate EPA to DPA, indicating that the expressed enzymes in these cultures preferred the elongation of 20-carbon chain long PUFA, and not the 18-chain long PUFA, GLA.

The amino acid sequences of the 3 clones were compared to determine if the

20   substrate conversion levels were dictated by the translated sequences. The cDNA sequence of pRPL-6-1 is different from pRPL-6-B2 at A512G. This single mutation substantially reduced the conversion of the C20 substrate fatty acid to its elongated product. It appears that this is an important region of the enzyme for 20-carbon chain elongation. The cDNA sequence of pRPL-6-A3 is different from pRPL-6-B2 at

25   D169N and C745R. These mutations reduced the conversion of the C20 substrate fatty acid to its elongated product, but the expressed enzyme was able to maintain some activity. The elongase gene in pRPL-6-B2, has the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:49 and the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:50.

To further confirm the substrate specificity of the algal elongation enzyme,

30   described above and referred to herein as PELO1p, the recombinant yeast strain 334(pRPL-6-B2) was grown in minimal media containing n-6 fatty acids LA, GLA, DGLA, AA, or n-3 fatty acids ALA, STA, ETA, EPA, or 20:0, or 20:1. The lipid profiles of these yeast cultures, when examined by GC and GC-MS, indicated that there were accumulations of adrenic acid (ADA, 22:4-6) and EPA, respectively. The

35   levels of these fatty acids were 1.40% ADA and 2.54% EPA, respectively, of the total fatty acids in the strains containing the PELO1 sequence. These represented 14.0% and 14.1% conversions of the substrate fatty acids, respectively, to the products elongated by two carbon atoms. No elongation of the saturated fatty acid

20:0, or monounsaturated fatty acid 20:1 was seen. Also, no elongation of the C18 substrates LA, GLA, ALA, or STA was seen. These results indicated that the expressed enzyme activity in strain 334(pRPL-6-B2) was specific for the elongation of 20-carbon chain long PUFAs, and not the 18-chain long PUFA, or the 20-carbon

5   chain long saturated or monounsaturated fatty acids.

EXAMPLE 13

Assembling DHA Biosynthetic Pathway Genes for Expression in Somatic Soybean Embryos (pKR365, pKR364, and pKR357)

Construction of plasmid pKR365

10   The S. diclina delta-6 desaturase, M. alpina delta-5 desaturase and S. diclina delta-17 desaturase were cloned into plasmid pKR365 behind strong, seed-specific promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. The delta6 desaturase was cloned behind the KTi promoter followed by the KTi 3' termination region (Kti/Sdd6/Kti3' cassette). The delta-5

15   desaturase was cloned behind the GlycininGy1 promoter followed by the pea leguminA2 3' termination region (Gy1/Mad5/legA2 cassette). The S. diclina delta-17 desaturase was cloned behind the soybean Annexin promoter followed by the soy BD30 3' termination region (Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette). Plasmid pKR365 also contains the T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette for bacterial selection of the plasmid on

20   hygromycin B and a bacterial origin of replication (ori) from the vector pSP72 (Stratagene).

Plasmid pKR365 was constructed from a number of different intermediate cloning vectors as follows: The Gy1/Mad5/legA2 cassette was released from plasmid pKR287 by digestion with SbfI and BsiWI. This cassette was cloned into

25   the SbfI/BsiWI site of plasmid pKR359, containing the Kti/Sdd6/Kti3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette and the bacterial ori to give pKR362. The Ann/Sdd17/BD30 cassette, released from pKR271 (described in Example 7) by digestion with PstI, was then cloned into the SbfI site of pKR362 to give pKR365. . A schematic representation of pKR365 is shown in Figure 6. A detailed description

30   for plasmid construction for pKR287 and pKR359 is provided below.

Plasmid pKR287 was constructed by digesting pKR136 (described in Example 4) with NotI, to release the M. alpina delta-5 desaturase, and cloning this fragment into the NotI site of pKR263 (described in Example 4).

Plasmid pKR359 was constructed by cloning the NotI fragment of pKR295,

35   containing the delta-6 desaturase, into the NotI site of the Kti/NotI/Kti3' cassette in pKR353. Vector pKR353 was constructed by cloning the HindIII fragment, containing the Kti/NotI/Kti3' cassette, from pKR124 (described in Example 2) into the HindIII site of pKR277. Plasmid pKR277 was constructed by digesting pKR197

(described in Example 4) with *Hind*III to remove the Bcon/*Not*I/phas3' cassette. To construct pKR295, the gene for the *S. diclina* delta-6 desaturase was removed from pRSP1 (Table 1) by digestion with *Eco*RI and *Eco*RV and cloned into the *Mfe*I/*Eco*RV site of pKR288. Vector pKR288 was an intermediate cloning vector

5   containing a DNA stuffer fragment flanked by *Not*I/*Mfe*I sites at the 5' end and *Eco*RV/*Not*I sites at the 3' end of the fragment. The DNA stuffer fragment was amplified with Vent polymerase (NEB) from plasmid CalFad2-2 (described in WO 01/12800) using primer oCal-26 (SEQ ID NO:96), designed to introduce an *Mfe*I site at the 5' end of the fragment, and oCal-27 (SEQ ID NO:97), designed to

10   introduce an *Eco*RV site at the 3' end of the fragment.

GCCAATTGGAGCGAGTTCCAATCTC   (SEQ ID NO:96)

GCGATATCCGTTTCTTCTGACCTTCATC   (SEQ ID NO:97),

15

The primers also introduced partial *Not*I sites at both ends of the fragment such that subsequent cloning into a filled *Not*I site added *Not*I sites to the end.

Construction of plasmid pKR364

20   The *M.alpina* delta-6 desaturase, *M. alpina* delta-5 desaturase and *S. diclina* delta-17 desaturase were cloned into plasmid pKR364 behind strong, seed-specific promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. Plasmid pKR364 is identical to pKR365 except that the *Not*I fragment that contains the *S. diclina* delta-6 desaturase in pKR365 was replaced

25   with the *Not*I fragment containing the *M. alpina* delta-6 desaturase as found in pKR274. A schematic representation of pKR364 is shown in Figure 7.

Construction of plasmid pKR357

         The *S. aggregatum* delta-4 desaturase, *M. alpina* elongase and *Pavlova*

30   elongase (Table1) were cloned into plasmid pKR357 behind strong, seed-specific promoters allowing for high expression of these genes in somatic soybean embryos and soybean seeds. The delta-4 desaturase (SEQ ID NO:51, and its protein translation product shown in SEQ ID NO:52) was cloned behind the KTi promoter followed by the KTi 3' termination region (Kti/Sad4/Kti3' cassette). The *Pavlova*

35   elongase (SEQ ID NO:49) was cloned behind the GlycininGy1 promoter followed by the pea leguminA2 3' termination region (Gy1/Pavelo/legA2 cassette). The *M. alpina* elongase was cloned behind the promoter for the α'-subunit of β-conglycinin followed by the 3' transcription termination region of the phaseolin gene

(βcon/Maelo/Phas3' cassette). Plasmid pKR357 also contains the T7prom/HPT/T7term cassette for bacterial selection of the plasmid on hygromycin B, a 35S/hpt/NOS3' cassette for selection in soy and a bacterial origin of replication (ori).

5   Plasmid pKR357 was constructed from a number of different intermediate cloning vectors as follows: The Gy1/Pavelo/legA2 cassette was released from plasmid pKR336 by digestion with *PstI* and *BsiWI*. The Gy1/Pavelo/legA2 cassette was then cloned into the *SbfI/BsiWI* site of plasmid pKR324, containing the βcon/Maelo/Phas3' cassette, the T7prom/hpt/T7term cassette, the 35S/hpt/Nos3'

10   cassette and the bacterial *ori* to give pKR342. The KTi/Sad4/KTi3' cassette, released from pKR348 by digestion with *PstI*, was then cloned into the *SbfI* site of pKR342 to give pKR357. A schematic representation of pKR357 is shown in Figure 8. A detailed description for plasmid construction for pKR336, pKR324 and pKR348 is provided below.

15   Plasmid pKR336 was constructed by digesting pKR335 with *NotI*, to release the *Pavlova* elongase, and cloning this fragment into the *NotI* site of pKR263 (described in Example 4), which contained the Gy1/*NotI*/legA2 cassette. To construct pKR335, pRPL-6-B2 (described in Table 1) was digested with *PstI* and the 3' overhang removed by treatment with VENT polymerase (NEB). The plasmid was

20   then digested with *EcoRI* to fully release the *Pavlova* elongase as an *EcoRI/PstI* blunt fragment. This fragment was cloned into the *MfeI/EcoRV* site of intermediate cloning vector pKR333 to give pKR335. Vector pKR333 was identical to pKR288 (Example 3 and 13) in that it contained the same *MfeI* and *EcoRV* sites falnked by *NotI* sites and was generated in a similar way as pKR288.

25   Plasmid pKR324 was constructed by cloning the *NotI* fragment of pKS134 (described in Example 3), containing the *M. alpina* elongase, into the *NotI* site of the βcon/*NotI*/Phas3' cassette of vector pKR72 (described in Example 4).

      Plasmid pKR348 was constructed by cloning the *NotI* fragment of pKR300, containing the *S. aggregatum* delta-4 desaturase, into the *NotI* site of the

30   KTi/*NotI*/KTi3' cassette in pKR123R. To construct pKR300, the gene for the delta-4 desaturase was removed from pRSA1 (Table 1) by digestion with *EcoRI* and *EcoRV* and cloned into the *MfeI/EcoRV* site of pKR288 (described in Example 3 and 13). Plasmid pKR123R contains a *NotI* site flanked by the KTi promoter and the KTi transcription termination region (KTi/*NotI*/KTi3' cassette). In addition, the

35   KTi/*NotI*/KTi3' cassette was flanked by *PstI* sites. The KTi/*NotI*/KTi3' cassette was amplified from pKS126 (described in Example 2) using primers oKTi5 (SEQ ID NO:23) and oKTi7 (SEQ ID NO:98) designed to introduce an *XbaI* and *BsiWI* site at the 5' end, and a *PstI/SbfI* and *XbaI* site at the 3' end, of the cassette.

TTCTAGACCTGCAGGATATAATGAGCCG   (SEQ ID NO:98)

        The resulting PCR fragment was subcloned into the *Xba*I site of the cloning

5   vector pUC19 to give plasmid pKR123R with the KTi/*Not*I/KTi3' cassette flanked by *Pst*I sites.

Production of DHA in somatic embryos

        Plasmids pKR357, pKR365 and pKR364 were prepared as described in Example 9. Fragments of pKR365 and pKR364 were also obtained and purified as

10   described for pKR274, pKR275 and pKKE2 in Example 9. Plasmids pKR357and either pKR365 or pKR364 were cotransformed into soybean embryogenic suspension cultures (cv. Jack) as described in Example 9. Hygromycin-resistant embryos containing pKR365 and pKR357, or pKR364 and pKR357 were selected and clonally propagated also as described in Example 9. Embryos were matured by

15   culture for 4-6 weeks at 26°C in SB196 under cool white fluorescent (Phillips cool white Econowatt F40/CW/RS/EW) and Agro (Phillips F40 Agro) bulbs (40 watt) on a 16:8 hr photoperiod with light intensity of 90-120 μE/m2s. After this time embryo clusters were removed to a solid agar media, SB166, for 1-2 weeks. Clusters were then subcultured to medium SB103 for 3 weeks. During this period, individual

20   embryos were removed from the clusters and screened for alterations in their fatty acid compositions as follows.

        Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared from single, matured, somatic soy embryos by transesterification as described in Example 10. Retention times were compared to those for methyl esters of standards commercially available (Nu-Chek

25   Prep, Inc. catalog #U-99-A). Six embryos from each event were analyzed in this way. Fatty acid methyl esters from embryos transformed with pKR357 and pKR365 containing the highest levels of DHA are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9
Fatty acid analysis of somatic embryos containing DHA pathway genes
(pKR357 and pKR365)

Event	'16:0	'18:0	'18:1	'18:2	GLA	'18:3	'18:4
1114-6-5-1	10.8	9.4	2.3	28.8	0	19.7	2
1114-6-5-7	13.8	8	6.4	30.1	2.1	15	2
1116-8-16-1	13.8	7	6.2	27.3	4	10.5	0.9

	20:2 (11,14)	20:3 (8,11,14)	ARA	20:3 (11,14,17)	20:4 (5,11,14,17)	EPA	DHA
1114-6-5-1	6.2	3.2	1.4	4.2	1.7	2.5	1.3
1114-6-5-7	3.7	4.3	2.9	1.9	1.6	4.1	1.6
1116-8-16-1	4.6	3.9	5.2	2.3	1.1	6.1	3.1

In addition to those fatty acids shown, 20:0, 20:1, 20:3 (5,11,14), DPA and ETA are also present in the extracts, each less than 1% of total fatty acids.

DHA is defined as 22:6(4,7,10,13,16,19) by the nomenclature described in Example 11.

Fatty acid methyl esters for embryos transformed with pKR357 and pKR364 containing the higest levels of DHA are shown in Table 10.

72

TABLE 10

Fatty acid analysis of somatic embryos containing DHA pathway genes
(pKR357 & pKR364)

Event	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	GLA	18:3	STA	20:2	HGLA	ARA	20:3	20:4(5,11,14,17)	ETA	EPA	DPA	DHA	Others
1141-4-2-1	17.4	2.8	1.8	41.2	0.0	33.7	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
1141-4-2-2	11.8	7.4	3.9	23.7	2.7	22.0	3.6	2.3	3.1	0.0	4.4	2.5	2.1	5.2	1.0	3.3	1.0
1141-4-2-3	16.6	5.5	4.8	26.3	3.0	23.7	3.1	1.4	2.6	0.3	3.1	1.3	2.8	3.8	0.0	1.4	0.4
1141-4-2-4	16.5	5.8	3.8	28.5	4.1	27.7	2.9	1.0	1.4	0.0	2.5	1.1	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.0	0.0
1141-4-2-5	15.3	3.6	3.3	27.3	3.4	28.9	3.2	0.8	2.3	0.0	2.8	0.9	2.6	4.0	0.0	1.6	0.0
1141-4-2-6	16.5	3.1	3.7	41.5	2.0	25.6	1.7	0.2	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.7	0.0
1141-5-2-1	14.1	3.9	4.7	24.1	7.4	26.2	1.8	1.1	3.7	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.7	6.5	0.0	2.2	0.0
1141-5-2-2	12.6	5.0	1.9	29.8	1.1	28.9	2.9	3.4	4.2	1.1	3.7	1.1	0.6	1.8	0.0	2.0	0.0
1141-5-2-3	10.8	3.5	7.8	34.5	5.0	22.9	1.1	2.2	2.4	0.8	2.0	1.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	1.8	0.0
1141-5-2-4	12.0	3.8	3.8	30.9	3.5	27.1	1.5	2.3	4.1	1.3	2.4	1.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	2.6	0.0
1141-5-2-5	11.2	3.8	8.4	33.9	6.1	19.4	0.0	2.1	2.0	0.7	2.0	1.7	0.6	5.7	0.0	2.1	0.3
1141-5-2-6	14.1	7.4	3.9	28.8	2.2	20.2	2.4	3.7	5.7	1.5	2.7	1.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	2.1	1.3
1142-9-4-1	13.6	2.7	5.7	39.7	4.1	18.1	0.0	1.5	2.0	0.8	1.3	1.8	0.6	6.1	0.0	1.8	0.0
1142-9-4-2	13.8	3.9	8.2	35.7	3.2	18.3	1.0	2.1	1.7	0.7	2.0	1.7	0.6	4.3	0.3	1.4	0.8
1142-9-4-3	15.4	5.2	6.6	31.0	5.0	14.7	1.1	1.8	2.9	0.6	2.1	2.5	0.8	7.6	0.0	1.9	0.5
1142-9-4-4	14.4	3.4	6.4	37.8	4.5	18.2	0.9	1.4	2.5	0.7	1.4	1.3	0.6	4.4	0.0	1.2	0.8
1142-9-4-5	13.5	3.4	3.7	35.8	4.1	24.0	1.3	1.3	1.6	0.4	1.9	2.3	0.8	4.7	0.0	1.3	0.0
1142-9-4-6	12.9	3.6	7.6	37.6	2.4	18.7	0.0	2.1	0.9	0.6	2.3	2.4	0.6	5.5	0.0	2.5	0.3
1142-10-6-1	9.7	5.1	6.1	41.7	2.2	16.7	0.5	4.4	1.7	0.2	3.3	3.4	0.4	1.8	0.4	0.8	1.7
1142-10-6-2	11.4	3.1	6.5	39.3	4.3	21.4	0.0	1.2	0.8	0.0	2.4	3.4	0.0	4.9	0.0	1.1	0.0
1142-10-6-3	15.5	3.1	7.5	46.6	1.3	19.2	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.0	2.0	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
1142-10-6-4	11.8	4.1	8.0	38.8	3.0	17.2	0.0	2.2	1.3	0.0	2.9	5.2	0.8	3.6	0.0	1.1	0.0
1142-10-6-5	12.1	4.5	7.1	34.6	2.5	21.5	1.5	1.8	1.9	0.0	3.4	2.2	2.0	2.8	0.5	1.4	0.3
1142-10-6-6	11.7	3.0	6.2	39.2	4.3	20.9	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.0	2.5	3.1	1.3	2.9	0.0	0.9	0.0
1142-10-8-1	14.6	6.5	5.4	26.4	8.7	11.1	1.4	4.3	3.3	2.5	1.9	1.6	0.8	6.1	0.5	2.6	2.3
1142-10-8-2	14.3	3.3	3.9	28.4	4.0	28.2	1.7	1.0	2.3	0.2	2.5	1.3	2.6	4.6	0.4	1.3	0.0
1142-10-8-3	16.7	3.7	15.2	13.8	27.9	10.6	1.7	0.4	3.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	1.6	2.9	0.0	0.4	1.2
1142-10-8-4	20.5	4.2	10.0	12.1	21.8	12.0	2.6	0.4	6.4	1.0	0.5	0.0	2.4	4.3	0.3	0.6	1.1
1142-10-8-5	13.4	5.1	3.9	31.5	2.2	24.1	2.1	2.5	2.5	0.0	4.5	1.5	2.3	2.3	0.4	1.2	0.5
1142-10-8-6	11.2	3.9	17.0	21.0	15.3	13.0	0.0	2.4	2.6	2.1	1.1	1.3	0.9	4.8	0.0	1.3	2.1

For Table 10, fatty acids listed as "others" include: 20:0, 20:1(11), 20:3 (5,11,14) and 22:0. Each of these fatty acids is present at relative abundance of less than 1% of the total fatty acids.

73